The Leadenhall Building

INTERNAL NATURAL STONE COLLECTION

Marshalls

Creating Better Spaces

Case Study

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Project Profile

Client: The British Land and Oxford Properties
Architect: Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners
Main Contractor: Laing O'Rourke
Specialist Contractor: Vetter UK

Marshalls Products:
Approximately 2010m² of Mountains West Granite (GRA964) and 965m² of India Black Granite (GRA014), both with a special flamed textured finish.

Background

Designed by Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners, The Leadenhall Building, informally known as the Cheesegrater, is a 225m high skyscraper located in the City of London. Positioned opposite the famous Lloyd's Building, it is bold in design setting out to create an architectural icon.

The building, co-developed by Oxford Properties and British Land, combines spectacular landscaped open space, retail and dining facilities with modern, flexible office space, in the heart of the City's insurance district.

Marshalls, the UK's leading hard landscaping manufacturer which launched its internal flooring collection last year in association with The Society of British & International Design (SBID), was approached by specialist stone installer Vetter UK to supply natural stone flooring to a number of areas within the building, including the large reception area and to the new public realm space.

Challenge

The challenge was to create a seamless contemporary finish which would link the public realm space and internal flooring, while complementing the modern exterior of the building. This would be achieved using interesting laying patterns throughout the building to enhance the building's architectural appeal and by selecting a stone with non-slip properties and a consistent colour to improve the experience for visitors.

The internal office flooring had been designed to meet the highest quality office space standards taking the form of rectangular floor plates which progressively diminish in depth towards the apex. This design was achieved in part by using large format tiles, the largest being approximately 1800x1200mm. The challenge therefore was to achieve a consistently black finish throughout the building using these extremely large floor tiles and varied laying patterns.

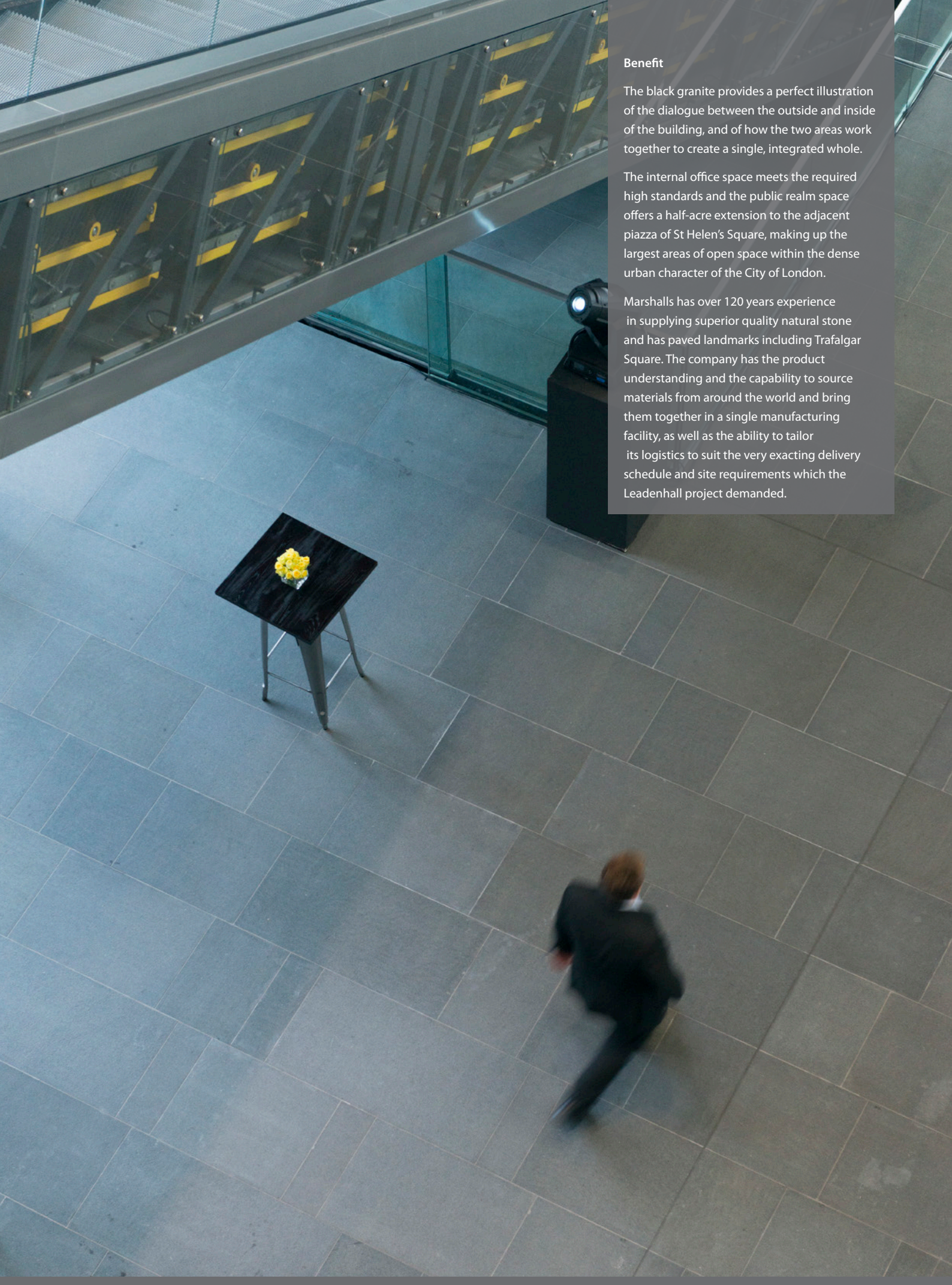
Solution

The solution was to use Mountains West and India Black granites from Marshalls which are both highly durable, true-black stones.

Mountains West is a Chinese, patterned black granite, that when textured with a flamed finish, provides a stunning slip-resistant interior flooring solution, ideal for high-footfall areas.

The company supplied over 2000m^2 of Mountains West granite to the project, along with 965m^2 of India Black granite which was selected for its similar but contrasting tones.

To achieve the striking laying patterns within different areas of the building Marshalls supplied 60 different sizes including plank formats. The stone went through a water jet dual finish process to bring out the rich colour to reach the desired consistent appearance.



Benefit

The black granite provides a perfect illustration of the dialogue between the outside and inside of the building, and of how the two areas work together to create a single, integrated whole.

The internal office space meets the required high standards and the public realm space offers a half-acre extension to the adjacent piazza of St Helen's Square, making up the largest areas of open space within the dense urban character of the City of London.

Marshalls has over 120 years experience in supplying superior quality natural stone and has paved landmarks including Trafalgar Square. The company has the product understanding and the capability to source materials from around the world and bring them together in a single manufacturing facility, as well as the ability to tailor its logistics to suit the very exacting delivery schedule and site requirements which the Leadenhall project demanded.