

Alder Hey Hospital



There can be few projects which are more worthwhile and rewarding than creating a new hospital facility for child cancer patients. This is exactly what The Rocking Horse Appeal charity and The Teenage Cancer Trust have achieved at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool.

Working closely together to maximize the result of their hard-won funding, the new £10million two-storey building opened its doors in the summer of 2003. With a total floor area of 2,740 sq m., the unit comprises a wide cross-section of facilities including in-patient and day-case wards, play facilities, kitchen, dining and lounge areas, parents' accommodation and much more.

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The design for the building was undertaken by the Mersey Design Group (MDG). Their team of architects and interior designers have developed a scheme which combines the use of natural light, natural materials and pale

colours in the Scandinavian style to create an internal environment with an overall calming effect that promotes patient well-being.

As specialists in healthcare projects, Liverpool-based MDG have an empathy with what is required in sensitive hospital environments. The Alder Hey Child Oncology Unit in particular was an especially challenging project, as Associate Director Nick Prole pointed out:

“Our first priority – as it is in all hospital buildings – was to create an efficient environment where staff, patients and visitors can move easily between departments,” explained Nick.

“When it came to the interiors, we knew from experience that sick children don’t want to be surrounded by bright primary colours, so that provided the impetus for



the light browns and beiges in the overall colour scheme.”

As part of this, The Teenage Cancer trust was able to tap into its long-standing

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links with The Amtico Company who supplied the flooring for the 250 sq m adolescent facilities within the unit.

55 sq m of Amtico 'Warm Beech' stripwood were used in the day area, dining area and lounge, whilst a further 10 sq m of 'Warm Beech' were laid in the quiet room together with a feature border of contrasting hardwood striping in rich Cherry.

"Everyone involved in the project has been delighted with the flooring in the adolescent areas," Nick continued. "The Warm Beech wood-effect was essential to achieving the desired interior feel of openness and calm. It also co-ordinated well with other design materials and features used elsewhere in the building.

"On a practical level," he said, "the hospital staff will no doubt appreciate the durability and low-maintenance aspects of Amtico."

Amtico Products: W793E Warm Beech

Design: Mersey Design Group

Contractor: Hurst Flooring

