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## HIGH ON RUGS

*Floor\_Story founder  
Simon Goff chats  
about his love of rugs  
and their ability to  
transform spaces*





Right The 'railway tracks' on the floor act as wayfinding, guiding you to key areas such as the cafe and lifts

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## Projects Proving that flooring can elevate a variety of spaces

**ARCHITECTURE PRACTICE** Squire & Partners has completed a nine-storey, 5,500m<sup>2</sup> office building for real estate firm Newmark. Located in King's Cross, London, Rolling Stock Yard takes a visual cue from its goods yard past and features a striking, light grey, poured resin-based floor that references railway tracks – a nod to the site's history with freight.

Externally, interpreting a goods yard vernacular sees solid oak sleepers used for the building's shading. Steel and perforated panels also feature – to reference corrugated containers and provide an abstract visual of stacked crates and containers.

Other, internal, features include sinusoidal profile cladding on the walls and a plywood reception behind steel sliding doors – an echo of the doors on a goods train.

### Rolling Stock Yard

London

'We are putting the railway iconography into the building, but equally we wanted to bring the language of the building outside, inside,' says Henry Squire, partner at Squire & Partners.

To avoid cracking due to movement, the thickness of the floor was an important consideration. At 10mm, it's much thicker than some of the 3mm micro-screed applications.

'Finding a floor material with the right look and feel [was very important] as we wanted the building to have a concrete, industrial feel,' says Squire. 'This floor manages to deliver that visually and technically as it doesn't crack, as sometimes experienced with concrete floors.'

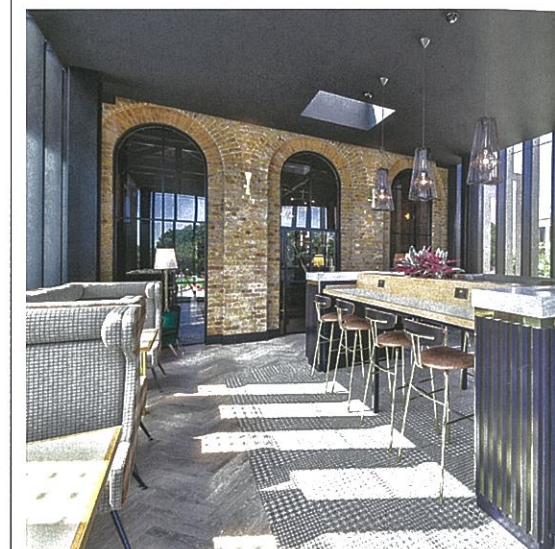
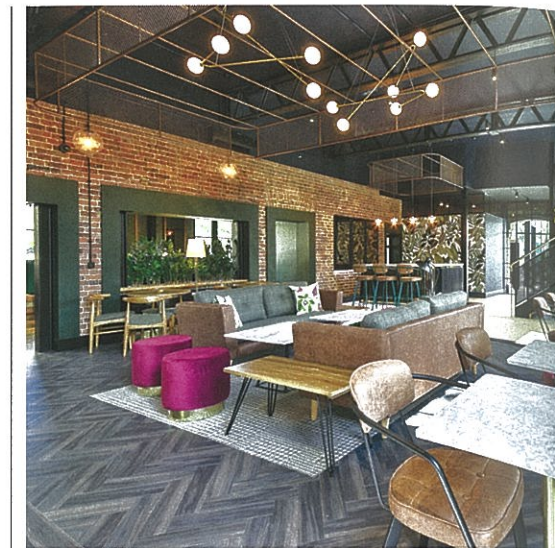
Yeon Sung Lee, architect, Squire & Partners, adds that 'the tracks involved a lot of craftwork, especially around the junctions, so there was a lot of skill used to portray this

graphic'. To achieve this effect a spacer bar was placed before the grey resin was poured, so that the black resin mixture could then fill the void. The floor was then grinded and polished to create the bold finish.

The tracks also act as wayfinding, guiding you to key areas such as the cafe and lifts. To a degree it has replaced the signage as a more effective solution.

'People spend quite a lot of their time staring at their feet when they are walking,' says Squire. 'For us to have these guiding railway lines means that when you are staring at your feet it is something to look at, but also helps you find your way. Often, signage is in the distance where you can't see it, particularly when someone needs glasses, for example, but these are very literally guiding you through.' [squireandpartners.com](http://squireandpartners.com)

JACK HOBHOUSE



### The Clubhouse, Hox Haus

Surrey

**MANCHESTER-BASED** architect 74 has completed the major project of extending and redeveloping a two-storey Victorian Surrey. The repurposed 453r Haus, now serves as the central clubhouse and social amenity attending the Royal Hollowa London, Hox Park campus.

Rachel Withey, associate says: 'We developed a strong rationale, which worked with between old and new, creating environments for individual harmoniously work, meet, and have fun.'

The design scheme features Amtico, which adds texture and understated elegance to the venue. Amtico Signature Ink was used throughout the clubhouse finishes between the first and including the internal stair treads. Designers' Choice Basket Weave was used for a dramatic finish in the first-floor.

The colours chosen enhance the textures and themes used throughout the project, while creating clear visual cues to enhance the experience of the clubhouse. [amtico.com](http://amtico.com)

Above Amtico Signature Ink Wash Wood was used throughout the clubhouse