

All a question of mind over matter

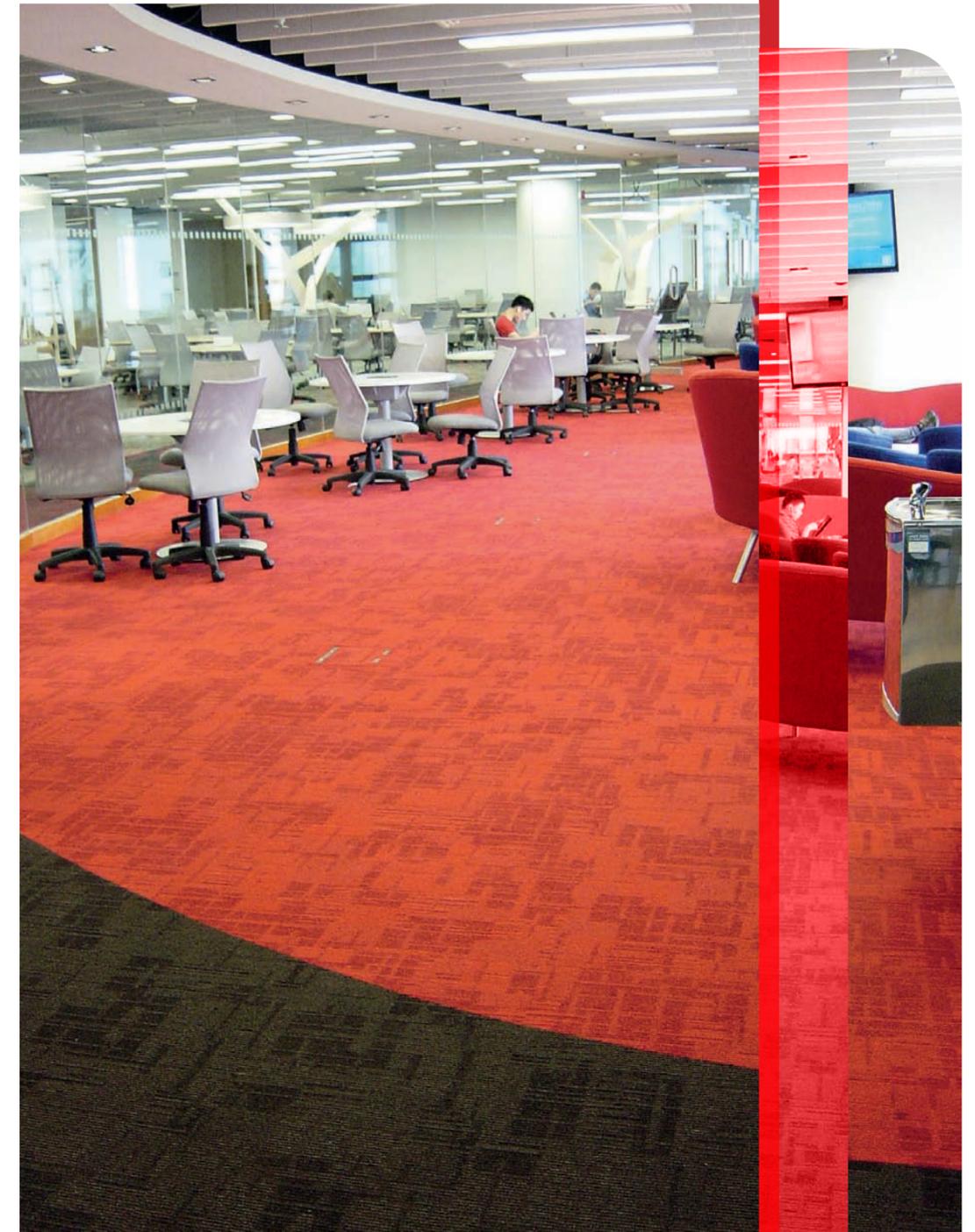
A university library explores new ways of learning and a design company comes up with a timeless design that is both pleasing to the eye and practical

Stunning vistas of the coastline along Clearwater Bay – that's what visitors to the five-storey building that houses the library of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) are rewarded with. But beyond the picturesque views, HKUST wanted a modern library facility that was equally conducive to research and study, perhaps even quiet contemplation. As one of Hong Kong's premier institutions of higher learning, this is fertile ground for some of Asia's sharpest scientific minds. The sprawling 12,350-sq-metre library is already an impressive facility with more than 31,000 electronic and print journals, a large collection of e-books, electronic databases and other digital information resources.

It was quite appropriate for Goudie Associates, one of Hong Kong's most forward-thinking architectural and design firms, to be tasked with the renovations of the Learning Commons, the library's new technologically plugged-in hub for learning and education. The complete array of academic resources and services at the Learning Commons would be easily accessed through technology, and the centre was envisaged as a breeding ground for spirited intellectual exchanges. The 1,800-sq-metre centre, with a seating capacity for over 600 people, is divided into four zones: the Study Zone, E-learning Zone, Creative Media Zone and Refreshment Zone.



PRODUCT NAME
Syncopation™
DESIGNER
Goudie Associates
INSTALLER
Modular Space



While Goudie Associates had a free hand with designing the Learning Commons, it was equally important that the new extension blended seamlessly with the existing library. To keep a sense of continuity and cohesion, Goudie Associates chose an Interface carpet from a single range – Syncopation with its solid colours and unusual texturing. Syncopation was also the ideal flooring to use because of its durability and easy

maintenance – important considerations given the heavy student traffic at the Learning Commons. A combination of four colours – Topsoil, Terrain, Maritime and Flame – were used to demarcate the different zones, with Flame, a bright red, used for the breakout Refreshment Zone. Laying the carpet vertically to take advantage of the elongated floor area had the added advantage of creating more visual space.