

Gerflor updates marine flooring collection

Gerflor's chief designer has overhauled the French flooring firm's Streamo Karavel marine collection, for the first time since its successful 2010 launch.

Italian Gino Venturelli, who started with the company in February, has refreshed its ship interiors range with revamped vinyl decorative tiles and planks, as part of a greater focus on aesthetics.

"The frequent change of lifestyle and relationship with the objects that are part of our daily life requires constant renewal," said Venturelli. "In Streamo Karavel, Gerflor has developed specific products for the marine market, but beyond the technical characteristics such as traffic resistance or slip resistance, cleanability and easy installation, it's important to update with new colours and textures. The new collection is

inspired by nature, and both wood and stone printed designs are combined with a vintage embossing for a more realistic look."

With more than 25 years' industrial design experience including ceramic and parquet flooring, Venturelli seeks both information and inspiration from a number of different channels.

"First, there are obviously the international events related to design, architecture and fashion," he said. "Input from opinion leaders such as architects and interior ship designers is also important, as well as ongoing and constructive dialogue with selected customers. Each project interprets the source material with all its imperfections, including the variety of shades and tactile feel – we don't simply copy one element, but the complete picture,



Chief designer Gino Venturelli inspires a fresh new mood for Streamo Karavel designs

which ensures harmony between the elements that make up a floor."

More single cabins for QE

Cunard Lines' 2,068-passenger Queen Elizabeth now has nine new, single staterooms following a multi-million pound refit in June 2014.

The cabins – eight outside and one inside – are the result of the rising popularity of solo travel, as individuals travelling in groups prefer to have their own rooms, similar to that they would expect when staying in a land-based hotel.

Each stateroom measures between 159sqft and 162sqft and contains a small double bed of more than 47ins wide, while large windows in outside rooms afford passengers plenty of daylight.

The cabins' central, mid-ship location means that they are conveniently situated close to the Empire Casino, the Royal Court Theatre and the Queens Room.

Three thousand mattresses were replaced and 1,200 flat-screen televisions installed in staterooms, while carpets were also renewed as part of the upgrade, as well as new sun-deck awnings near the Lido pool and on both sides of the Grills Upper Terrace.

The Royal Arcade shopping area has been transformed with newly opened watch and jewellery stores, included within layout and lighting changes.



One of the new single staterooms onboard upgraded Cunard's Queen Elizabeth