

Materials and Finishes



Advanced surface and techniques achieve timeless quality for new mosque

The Jamia Mosque Sultania and Education Centre in Brierfield, Lancashire was recently completed following a 10-year design and build project and an investment of £3.5 million from the local Muslim community. The new building, by architects Archi-Structure, Baildon, West Yorkshire, is now one of the largest mosques in Lancashire, serving up to 2,000 worshippers. Its interior decoration honours the past by using many traditional materials whilst at the same time also embracing modern methods of construction and advanced, high-performance materials such as DuPont™ Corian®.

The new facility is dedicated to both education and worship and has eight classrooms on the lower ground floor. The spacious main prayer hall offers a ladies prayer area on a mezzanine level, for which a special design solution was needed to separate and yet connect the two areas.

Designer Umar Faruque of Studio Architekton, who specialises in contemporary Islamic interiors, was called in to create this feature and came up with the concept of 38 decorative arches inspired by the Moorish architecture of Andalusia. The arches were designed to complement the marble sourced from Pakistan and Turkey that fea-

tures in the main hall, but for this project the designer wanted a flexible modern material that would work in harmony whilst also being easy to fabricate and fit.

Umar Faruque was familiar with the properties of Corian and the way in which these have been applied to various projects around the world, and was keen to explore the use of the material in his design for the arches. He chose local specialist M and L Solid Surfaces for the on-site design, fabrication and installation, having worked with the company previously and knowing its background in engineering and ability to achieve the precise tolerances required for this project.

With technical support from DuPont Corian distributor CD (UK), the manufacture and installation of the arches was completed within 12 weeks, using 30 sheets of the material. The two colours specified for the design were the deep, rich Cocoa Brown and the veined mineral-look Arrowroot, which were chosen as a very near match to the colours of the marble in the main prayer hall. The arches were constructed from an MDF base.

Skilled techniques used to fabricate the complex curves included thermoforming

and the seamless bonding of the colours to ensure a sleek, uniform finish throughout. The arch design is now a standout feature that has become one of the most distinctive and admired within the building.

Two members of the mosque commented on the design. Said Masud Ahmed, "We were unaware that a material famous for worktops could be so adaptable and creative, and our faith in the architect and contractor has been rewarded with a quality product and design, which has been completed to a very high standard."

Added Khalid Hussain, "The Sultania Mosque build has been a huge project for the community and those involved in the construction; everyone is delighted with the final result and appreciative of such a unique building with its many artistic features, all complementing each other. The use of DuPont Corian was a new but ingenious idea to us; we are pleased with how beautiful it looks, it has become one of the main talking points about the design."

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