****

Press Release with Pictures for immediate release

**24th January 2022**

**STARTS**

**Calling all terrazzo spotters! Competition launched to uncover Diespeker heritage projects**

As part of celebrations marking 140 years as a specialist in terrazzo and natural stone, Diespeker & Co is keen to learn about heritage projects undertaken by the company. To the extent that the company is offering the opportunity to win one of four cash prizes through 2022.

Diespeker’s early work is in evidence across the country, from Scotland to Dorset, Blackpool to Brighton and Newcastle to the Cornish coast. Floors and stairs in entertainment venues, hospitals, council buildings and station concourses, frontages and facades for offices and shops, and stunning feature mosaics in churches were all the work of the company which at one point had offices in Glasgow, Birmingham, Hull, Manchester, Liverpool and Belfast, in addition to head office at Holborn Viaduct.

Over the years, Diespeker has been contacted by people with an interest in heritage materials. For example, Murray Peterson sent information about intricate mosaic and terrazzo floors and stairs he knew of at the Pavilion Theatre in Glasgow, whilst Steve Settle spotted a terrazzo floor by Diespeker in the Port of Liverpool. Both has a small mosaic signature, Diespeker Patent.

Diespeker has also discovered evidence when undertaking work across the country, particularly when refurbishing old terrazzo or working in notable historic buildings. In 2017, during a marble installation at the London Coliseum, a stunning ceiling mosaic in the entrance was pointed out which, on closer inspection - and with the benefit of a stepladder - turned out to be a Diespeker original as evidenced by a mosaic signature.

Diespeker’s later skills with pre-casting featured in a number of high profile projects including The New House at Wadhurst Estate. This single storey house was designed by architect John Outram and won 'The Sunday Times Best Country House since the War' Award in 1989. Diespeker also worked with the architect on three stormwater pumping stations, one of which was built in the style of a temple and incorporated huge pieces of precast concrete to create ‘fins’. Each fin weighed two tons. Strikingly multi-coloured, they were pre-painted in the Diespeker workshop prior to installation.

During research, a book produced by Diespeker in 1931 provided masses of detail about projects the company had been involved with, and anyone keen to enter is welcome to look through this to get inspiration.

Diespeker MD John Krause says “It’s always a thrill to learn about work that took place over 100 years ago – some of the projects even include dates worked into the design, such as the mosaic at the entrance to the National Portrait Gallery which Diespeker created in 1895.

“So much of the company’s early work has stood the test of time, sometimes needing repairs and refurbishment, but rarely needing replacement!”

The Diespeker Heritage Project competition runs until the end of 2022. Four prizes of £100 will be made from a random draw during the year. For more information and for a link to the 1931 book visit <https://www.diespeker.co.uk/heritage-project/>

**ENDS**

**Images**

**Port of Liverpool flooring**

**Port of Liverpool Diespeker logo**

**Glasgow Pavilion logo**

**Notes**

Diespeker & Co is a specialist supplier of natural stone and man-made materials for flooring, tiles, cladding, worktops and treads, for the commercial and domestic sectors.

The company was founded in 1881 in Hamburg and expanded into London where it was one of the first companies to offer terrazzo and mosaic to the UK market.

Diespeker offers a rare service at its factory in South East London where traditional hand-casting skills are employed to create bespoke designs. This enables the company to also match existing materials for refurbishment projects. The factory boasts the latest in Italian cutting and polishing machinery, as well as an impressive showroom displaying over 500 standard tile designs.

Standard materials are imported from trusted suppliers in Italy where they can be cut to a much thinner finish than in the UK if required.

The full service includes site surveys, technical support, drawing, supply and installation and an exceptional aftercare package.

Diespeker has supplied and installed standard and bespoke solutions for such prestigious clients as The Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Academy, The Waldorf Hotel, WeWork, Bob Bob Ricard, Paul Smith and Wimbledon Tennis Club.

[www.diespeker.co.uk](http://www.diespeker.co.uk)