



Press Release with Pictures for immediate release

**24th June 2021**

## **STARTS**

### **The writing's on the wall!**

#### **Street artist captures 140 years of stone supply in London**

Street artist Lionel Stanhope has created a stunning mural for South London natural stone and terrazzo specialist Diespeker & Co in Bermondsey.

The company is marking 140 years as a London-based supplier of marble, granite and terrazzo products in the UK and overseas.

Lionel, who has painted sets for Hollywood and Disney, is well known for his work for Network Rail, recreating colourful retro signage under historic railway bridges in South London. Last year he painted a mural for Millwall FC in Zampa Road just around the corner from Diespeker.

This latest artwork, an impressive 13 by 5.5 metres, took Lionel and his assistant Martin just four days to paint using his preferred medium of spray paint to create the striking image. It depicts scenes from the company history including the marble quarries of Italy, transportation lorries and Diespeker's original London headquarters at Diespeker Wharf in Islington with its iconic chimney stack. Part of the design was based on a photograph believed to be from 1932.

Lionel says he particularly liked bringing together four different elements, incorporating the old photo with more illustrative elements as well as the lettering. He commented: "I think the design is really balanced so it works well in this space, and it has been really satisfying doing something on this big scale."

A keen cyclist, Diespeker's Managing Director John Krause portrayed within the mural riding his bike to work across Tower Bridge. John, whose father ran the business before him, said:

"We're really proud of our heritage as a business, and the mural describes it perfectly. It's the story behind our 140 years that Lionel has captured so well, our roots in London and the original Diespeker signage skilfully incorporated into the new design.

"For me, the mural really brings the whole thing full circle from early beginnings to where we are now. It feels very special to have our own memorable and permanent physical representation of Diespeker's presence in South London."

The mural is on public view at Diespeker's main entrance in Penarth Street.

In its 140 years Diespeker has contributed to many outstanding projects including architect John Outram's temple-style stormwater pumping station on the Isle of Dogs in the 1980s, the Barbican and the Lloyds Building, Wimbledon Tennis Club and the Royal Academy of Arts. The company's early work in mosaic tiles can be spotted in many locations around London, including at the entrance to the National Portrait Gallery.

To view a timelapse film of the mural's creation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pYNLkG4V6Y>

## **ENDS**

### **Images**

- Mural 1 L-R Lionel Stanhope, Diespeker MD John Krause, Lionel's assistant Martin
- Mural 2 Diespeker staff celebrating the new mural
- Mural 3 Close up Tower Bridge with cyclist
- Mural 4 Without people
- Photo from 1932
- Dropbox link to timelapse

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pgkrol2561t2e00/AAD6IV\\_qQdXk0luuzP\\_22A46a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pgkrol2561t2e00/AAD6IV_qQdXk0luuzP_22A46a?dl=0)

### **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)