

Radiant heating frees up floor space

The combination of higher energy prices and current financial conditions are forcing all members of the design team to look at different ways in which they can maximise floor space and increase a building's energy efficiency.

Radiant heating panels provide a highly efficient form of heating that is ceiling-mounted, thus maximising the amount of available floor space.

They provide excellent occupant comfort and are an ideal solution when low operating temperatures and rapid warm-up times are required.

By radiating heat downwards they are directly warming the occupants and surfaces in a space, rather than a room's air, as is the case with traditional radiators. Large quantities of energy are therefore not wasted raising the air temperature of the whole occupied space before occupants ac-

tually feel the benefits.

Radiant heating panels are suitable for both new build and refurbishment projects. They can be surface mounted, freely suspended or integrated within a suspended ceiling.

Mounting panels at high level reduces the risk of accidental burning and is considered to be more aesthetically pleasing.

Responsive and energy efficient, radiant heating panels have low operating costs as well as minimal maintenance requirements, which are key considerations as whole life-cycle costs become 'de rigueur'.

It is not surprising therefore that radiant heating is common place in the PFI (Private Finance Initiatives) sector, where private sector investors are responsible for operating services. Radiant heating panels have therefore become increasingly common in the healthcare and

education markets.

The lack of moving parts in radiant heating products means maintenance disruptions are kept to a minimum, which is a significant consideration in certain environments eg transport hubs.

With so much importance being placed on improving the energy performance of buildings, industry professionals need to focus on how services perform at an integrated level. Those involved in the initial design or refurbishment of a building have to seriously consider the overall energy efficiency of heating, cooling and ventilation systems.

Because of their low water content, low energy usage and low maintenance requirements, radiant heating products can contribute to meeting these targets.

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