



REHAU UNDERFLOOR HEATING SYSTEMS

TOUCHWOOD SHOPPING & LEISURE COMPLEX, SOLIHULL

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The prestigious and highly acclaimed 59,500m² Touchwood shopping and leisure complex which opened recently in Solihull, West Midlands represents one of the numerous large commercial underfloor heating projects completed using the REHAU underfloor heating system.



More than 4,000m² of public areas and walkways in the shopping complex feature REHAU underfloor heating, chosen largely for its ability to create excellent comfort conditions where there are exceptionally high ceilings up to 12 metres in places. REHAU was able to demonstrate

successfully both to the client, Lend Lease Projects Ltd and to the consulting engineers that its system also combined reliability, low running costs and low maintenance.

Two significant factors in REHAU's specification were that the system had no impact on the aesthetics of the building once installed and it generated virtually no noise. Touchwood features naturally lit walkways and a very high quality overall finish which meant visible pipework or radiant panel heaters were considered unacceptably obtrusive.

Before REHAU was awarded the contract, the clients construction team, consulting engineer and architect visited Hauptbahnhof in Leipzig, a major railway station with two basement level shopping areas and completely natural ventilation which is heated by REHAU underfloor heating. This visit served to demonstrate that underfloor heating, although still considered by some to be an 'alternative' heating system in the UK, is routinely used for such

installations in mainland Europe and was entirely appropriate for an area like Touchwood which has high ceilings and atriums.

The visit also gave REHAU the opportunity to show that it had the experience, technical ability and resources to design and support such a large scale contract in close partnership with its authorised installers.

The Touchwood project was carried out by Haden Young, the mechanical service specialist contractor to Bovis Lend Lease, with REHAU providing design and technical support. Designed to BS EN 1264, the European standard for underfloor heating, it used REHAU's own 20mm



Universal pipe and REHAU manifolds. The pipe is fixed in a series of 20-40m² floor circuits using REHAU's Railfix method and was pressure tested before the concrete pours took place. The floor circuits are controlled by 24 separate manifolds, all of which are located out of sight in REHAU manifold cabinets in the car park below the groundfloor retail area.

All of the doorways in the centre were installed with peripheral circuits to generate greater output in order to compensate for higher heat loss. The floor finish throughout is natural stone which is an ideal conductor of heat for underfloor heating systems.

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