[Interview with users]



Creating a user-friendly airport for all people,

with universal design in mind

[Chubu Centrair International Airport - Centrair]



Chubu Centrair International Airport, known as Centrair, derived from the combination of the words 'central' and 'airport,' was inaugurated in 2005 to fulfill the demands of the 2005 World Exposition in Aichi prefecture, Japan. Since then, it has evolved into one of the busiest airports in Japan, providing not only the convenience of domestic and international flights but also a diverse array of facilities and stores.

In 2023, the airport underwent renovations, during which TAJIMA flooring products were selected for the baggage claim area of domestic flights. In consideration of color choice and focal points, with a focus on universal design principles, we interviewed Mr. Tateishi, Ms. Matsui, and Mr. Ishida of Centrair Facility Service Co., Ltd.

Thanks to … Centrair Facility Service Co., Ltd. From the left Mr. Daiju Tateishi Ms. Mio Matsui Mr. Ken Ishida



Welcoming passengers in a clean and bright space

Since the airport opened in 2005, nearly 20 years had passed, and the existing floor was not safe enough due to age-related deterioration causing the top layer of the floor to become damaged and turn up in various places. Additionally, accumulated dirt was giving the overall impression of dullness.

The newly renovated baggage claim area for domestic flights serves as the first space that welcomes passengers and is an essential area for them to take a break after a long flight. We aimed to create a clean and relaxing ambiance in this pivotal space, which serves as passengers' initial impression of Centrair, rather than merely a location for collecting checked baggage.

The main flooring material was previously gray, but the switch to white in this renovation completely transformed the space, giving it a significantly brighter impression. The flooring material was coated this time. And TAJIMA's homogeneous vinyl floor tile, "MONOSTEIN," itself has a glossy finish, which contributed to the space appearing shiny and beautiful. Airline operators working in the baggage claim area also praised the bright and clean environment compared to the previous one.



MONOSTEIN TH-1101, DOLCE 682-945

Considering durability and color choice to meet the needs of all users

Since the baggage claim area faces frequent traffic from passengers and luggage, it was necessary to select a flooring material with the same or higher durability than the existing one. Therefore, TAJIMA's MONOSTEIN, an extremely durable flooring material, was chosen for the main area. The previous flooring material exhibited noticeable wear and tear on the top layer due to aging, but MONOSTEIN, being a homogeneous vinyl floor tile, maintains its pattern even with wear.

White was chosen as the color, but there was concern that bright colors would make stains more noticeable. However, the use of bright colors was implemented this time because the floor material is coated, making it easier to clean. For the area around the turntable (baggage receiving area), a light blue color was selected from the "DOLCE" composition vinyl floor tiles, which come in a wide range of colors. This choice reflects Centrair Blue, the corporate color representing the sky and the sea. We believe we were able to capture Centrair's character in the simplicity of the design. In the past, tape was applied later to highlight the turntable area, but this time, the turntable area is color-coded using flooring material, making it easily identifiable.

We also incorporated a universal design perspective. Although the baggage claim area is color-coded light blue, if this area were darker than its surroundings, some passengers might perceive it as a hole, potentially causing fear. Therefore, we opted for a light blue color to prevent any sense of fear. By selecting passenger-friendly colors, we believe we have achieved the goal of creating a space that is welcoming to everyone, which is the airport's aim.



Moreover, by installing new tiles on top of the existing ones, we were able to minimize replacement work and waste, thus contributing to the reduction of CO2 emissions. Initially, we were concerned that this installation method might lead to level differences at the entrance and exit. However, thanks to the expertise of TAJIMA and the installers, we encountered no issues, maintaining a beautiful appearance. This is a favorite aspect known only to those involved in the installation process.





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—Could you please explain the reasons behind choosing our flooring material for this project?

When we spoke with TAJIMA's representative regarding this renovation, the meeting was very interesting and enriched our understanding, drawing from their extensive experience and past records. We believe the key factor was our confidence in their ability to handle not only the flooring materials but also related matters, such as their suggestions for reducing operating costs.



Color Communication Tools

TAJIMA has developed the "UD Color Name (UDCN)" in collaboration with Japan Color Research Institute* so that everyone can communicate smoothly regardless of each person's perception of colors. By naming this UD Color Name to all of our flooring products, it is possible to share color recognition even if there are differences in color perception.

Based on the know-how gained through this initiative, TAJIMA can also propose floor plans with the universal design in mind. Please contact us for more information.

% Japan Color Research Institute: The only comprehensive research institute on color in Japan.
<u>Official Site</u>

Click here for the detail of UD Color Name.

Chubu Centrair International Airport (Centrair)

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Tajima's sales person's comment

I feel a deep connection to Chubu Centrair International Airport, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year, as it is located in my hometown. First and foremost, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for choosing our products for this project. With the theme of "creating a space that is friendly to people and the environment," our flooring aims to embody the character of Centrair. We were tasked with proposing flooring materials that are easy to maintain, wear-resistant, easy to install, and highly functional, and that will stand the test of time. Throughout the project, we had numerous opportunities to present our products from various perspectives. Following the project's completion, we are delighted and thankful to hear that they were pleased with the bright and clean space. We eagerly anticipate our products making a positive contribution in the future.

Yachiyo Inoue

Tajima Roofing Inc.Floor Material Department,Sales Division

Floor materials introduced in this article.



MONOSTEIN TH-1101,TH-1105



Tile **DOLCE** 682-945