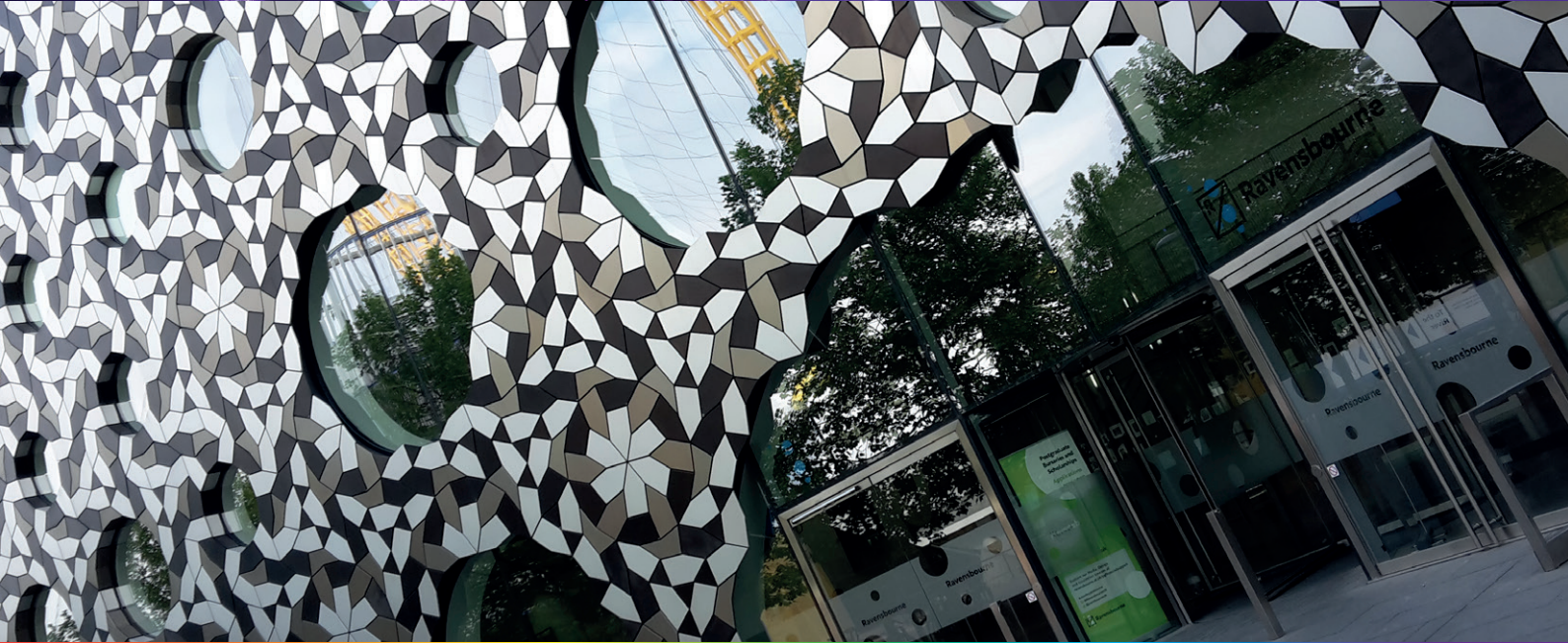


RISO, helping students learn the art of printing



*“The RISO duplicators
have transformed printing
for the students.”*

Maaïke van Neck,
Course Leader BA (Hons) Graphic Design

The Client

Ravensbourne College is an industry-focused design and digital media higher education institution located in the heart of London. Courses range from fashion promotion and graphic design, to visual effects and moving image. The college has approximately 2,400 students and, driven by industry standards and supported by the latest high-performance technology, the college is focused on producing “highly employable and enterprising graduates”.

Ravensbourne is a champion of creativity and collaboration and offers practical digital media and design courses from pre-degree, undergraduate and postgraduate to professional short course level. It supports students to work on briefs for high profile organisations such as BBC, Royal Shakespeare Company and Ford.

Ravensbourne is ranked seventh in the UK for art and design by the QS World University Rankings and has recently been given a Silver award for teaching and learning excellence from the Government’s Teaching Excellent Framework.

The Background

The college’s prototyping room on floor nine has an air of creativity, with devices that cater for all needs. From drills and sanders, to laser cutting and digital garment printers, and from heat presses to state-of-the-art 3D printers, this room is used by around 200 people from all different courses within the college on a daily basis.

Despite the room having so much technology in constant demand, it became apparent that they were missing something. They then heard about the digital duplicators (Risographs) from RISO, in particular the ME 9350, and it was clear the graphic design department knew about the devices and thought they would be of benefit. RISO duplicators, unlike other print methods, are a direct way to encourage students to think about the practical elements of the print process, and also the design process. All of this practical thinking helps prepare them for their future careers as graphic designers.

The ME9350 was such a success that when they learned about the A2 digital duplicator, the world’s first duplicator to print on A2 and ideal for artwork and posters, they knew they had to have one. It is now also installed in the prototyping room.



Client Quote

"We would recommend RISO Duplicators. They can print onto a wide variety of stock, are easy to set up and run, and no cleaning is required afterwards. They print extremely quickly and are a tool to help our students think more creatively. Unlike other print methods, they are a cost-effective way to help our students think about the practical elements of the print process, and also the design process. All of which helps prepare them for their future careers as graphic designers".

Notes:

The ME offers two-colour printing, and with the option of more than 20 different colours, the ME can create professional-quality materials very quickly.

The A2 improves productivity by handling A2-size documents and even A2-size imposition printing in a single pass. It provides top-quality printing with the ease of operating a copier or printer, so users need no special technical skills to operate the machine.

The Benefits

Maaïke van Neck, Course Leader BA (Hons) Graphic Design, comments: "The RISO duplicators have transformed printing for the students. I work with the graphic design students, and without the RISOs it would be difficult and costly to help them understand the full professional printing processes. The RISOs offer a nice mix of the hand-made look of a traditional screen-printing but with the flexibility and speed of a modern printer.

The students love how quick, simple and easy they are to use as they can be ready to print in just 60 seconds. Our students learn more about printing methods, experiment with colours and layering, all of which helps them be more creative. This helps them appreciate print more than ever before, particularly as they are more used to toner and laserjet printers.

They learn about making a master, density of ink, and the speed of printing. They learn about the professional side of print management and why it is important to get things right, and they can learn about the pricing and costs, all vital for their future careers.

The way the colours work with RISO also helps the students become more creative - for instance with fluorescent inks. They have to think about what makes an impact, imposition, pagination, separation, and colour registration.

Using a RISO also encourages them to think about the paper they use, as this is an aspect taken into consideration when assessing work".

Before RISO

Before the RISOs it was difficult and costly to help students understand the full printing process as we had to outsource print work.

After RISO

RISO ME and A2 duplicators. Both devices are fast, efficient and ideal for art and design colleges, print departments and graphic design students. With over 20 colours, including fluorescent inks, they are a tool to help students understand the full printing process enabling them to experiment and be more creative in a cost effective way for the college.



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