

Prefabricated hollow-core slabs

In the 1950s and 1960s, there was a shift away from the use of in-situ casting towards that of prefabricated flooring solutions for multi-storey buildings.

Floors made from elements produced in factories and of weights/sizes requiring the use of crane installation were already in use in the experimental buildings of the 1950s. Floors were tailor-made according to the system used by the individual builder.

The modular-based construction of the 1960s and country-wide desire/need for universally viable building elements saw the appearance of industrially manufactured flooring elements of uniform and non-manufacturer-dependant design.

Flooring elements had standard widths of 120 and 240 cm and standard lengths starting from 240 cm upwards in multiples, to a limited extent, of 30/60 cm.

The design and detailing of such elements and their relationship to other building elements has not, in principle, changed significantly since that time. The manufacturing process has, however. These days, flooring elements are manufactured in “continuous lengths” – cut to the desired measurement – and to a standard width of 12M (120 cm).