

Alvar Branch Library



Alvar Street Branch Library, New Orleans, LA

Location: New Orleans, LA
Description: Public Library
Architect: Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd.,
Minneapolis, MN
Flooring Choice: ECOsurfaces Commercial Flooring
Square Footage: 2,375

For some of New Orleans' older buildings, renovations are bringing new vitality to historic treasures that were in need of updating even before the damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina. The Alvar Street Branch Library, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is one such structure that time and technology had passed by. But, thanks to recent restorations, the library is again an active hub for connecting the residents of the city's Bywater Neighborhood. The contemporary interior design, fully modernized HVAC and

electrical systems, computer stations, and extensive book collection create an inviting space for residents to gather. The restoration is the result of successful teamwork.

The renovation team included architecture and interior design firm Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, Ltd. (MS&R), executives from Library Journal, and the New Orleans

Public Library. The firm selected ECOsurfaces Commercial Flooring as the surfacing product for the renovation. MS&R designer Leanne Larson, CID, LEED AP, says, "We wanted a floor that would be durable and easy to maintain, yet provide some acoustical benefits for the library. We also wanted a floor with lively, vivid colors for design impact. ECOsurfaces rubber flooring gave us the perfect combination of properties and aesthetics." The ECOearth pattern features rich, organic colors inspired by the natural world, while ECONights creates a more dramatic look with cosmic colors showcased against a field of black. Larson explains, "The three tones of rubber flooring visually warm the space. The colors also provide an interesting contrast to the celery green walls, earthy brown bookshelves and the brightly painted ceilings. The striped floor design in the main area mimics other architectural elements and helps define different zones within the library." ECOsurfaces' cutting-edge style works as well with the library's original wood shelving as it does with the new high-tech computer stations.

