

Case Histories

[REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS]

New Flooring on the Menu at University

Webb Center Manager Jennifer Midgett described the renovation of Old Dominion University's dining facility in Norfolk, VA, as the perfect storm. "The facility was gutted, expanded, and renovated because we needed to keep up with an increase in students." But the designer installed carpet tiles.

"The Webb Center was experiencing staffing changes during the renovation, so there was no one to voice concern about the design of our facility." At the opening of a newly renovated dining facility, the Webb Center was catering to 20,000 hungry students, faculty, and staff a week. "Within two weeks of opening, the carpet looked horrible," says Midgett.

The Webb Center turned to designers with Clark Nexsen Architecture & Engineering in Norfolk, VA, for help. "Old Dominion was looking to achieve

a smooth visual transition to the newly renovated portions of the facility and to reduce maintenance needs. All of the finishes needed to withstand the rigorous abuse the building endures," say designers on the project.

The designers chose *Armstrong* NATURAL CREATIONS ArborArt luxury vinyl tile (LVT). Armstrong NATURAL CREATIONS offers a broad range of designs inspired by natural wood and stone looks, as well as a variety of fashion-forward colors and patterns reflecting current trends. "Armstrong flooring was specified for its durability and ease of maintenance, as well as its range of pattern and color," according to the project designers.

In addition, Armstrong NATURAL CREATIONS provides lasting beauty. The durable, abrasion-resistant wear layers look good for years and the UV-cured urethane coating reduces time, chemicals, and labor



Existing building finishes dictated the color selections and Armstrong's breadth of product offered the bright palette of colors and accent colors we were looking to incorporate.

needed for routine maintenance, as well as third-party FloorScore certified and LEED eligible.

"We used Armstrong because of recommendations from our designers. Armstrong flooring addressed our concerns about traffic in the dining facility, while providing quality products at the right prices," says Midgett.

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Campus Reduces Bottled Water Use

Muhlenberg College, located in the Lehigh Valley of eastern Pennsylvania, is among the colleges and universities leading the charge towards minimizing environmental damage from plastic bottle waste. In 2009, students in an environmental communication course researched, designed and introduced to campus the "Just Tap It" project, an initiative dedicated to decreasing bottled water consumption. Nearly every sector of the college joined forces with the student organizations that supported the cause to successfully implement the project.

Prior to this effort, approximately 15,000 plastic water bottles were consumed on campus every week. Today, that number has been reduced by 92 percent, and Muhlenberg College had diverted more than 350,000 plastic bottles from landfills. Among the many integral components

implemented by Muhlenberg College to make this effort a success was the installation of the *Elkay* EZH2O Bottle Filling Stations across campus.

After extensively researching the options for bottle filling solutions, the Greening Committee determined that the Elkay EZH2O Bottle Filling Station would best meet the school's needs. The EZH2O is designed to provide end-users with a rapid fill of cold, filtered water for their existing bottles and cups.

"We looked at a variety of bottle filling systems available in the marketplace, and found that the other options were either too susceptible to damage or overly expensive," states David Rabold, facilities director for Muhlenberg College. "The key factors in our decision to install the Elkay EZH2O included its rugged, durable design, its coolness factor that made it



Today, a total of 48 EZH2O Bottle Filling Stations are installed on the Muhlenberg College campus.

attractive to students and the fact that the retro-fit models could be easily adaptable to the existing Elkay water coolers on campus."

The "Just Tap It" project offers a model for reducing bottled water usage across colleges and universities, and for fostering a culture of campus-wide sustainability.

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