

A photograph of the interior of the James B. Hunt Jr. Library. The space is bright and modern, featuring a large, colorful carpet with a geometric pattern of yellow, green, and grey squares. In the foreground, there are several bright, modular armchairs in shades of purple, yellow, and teal, arranged around small white tables. In the background, bookshelves are visible, and a few people are sitting on the chairs, reading or working. The overall atmosphere is one of a contemporary, inviting library space.

JAMES B. HUNT JR. LIBRARY

North Carolina State University Libraries

A Case Study

Milliken™



"Since opening, the library has been overtaken by students, who are extremely enthusiastic and appreciative of their new 'home away from home.' This was our purpose."

- Elaine Molinar, Managing Director for Snøhetta

In the James B. Hunt Jr. Library—located on North Carolina State's Centennial Campus in Raleigh—individuals across a variety of disciplines benefit from the technical innovations and research achievements available.

As versatile as the needs of a public library are, so must be the interiors, which serve as an integral part of a student's learning experience.

Snøhetta, an international architecture and interior design office based in Oslo, Norway and New York City, worked closely with Executive Architect Clark Nexsen (formerly Pearce, Brinkley, Cease + Lee) to specify Milliken floor covering in the state-of-the art installation. The team credits much of the project's success to close collaboration.



Material and Color Changes Enhance Environment

Because the building is mostly composed of large open spaces that flow from floor to floor—rather than to many enclosed rooms—where and how material and color changes occurred was very important.

A wide variety of study and learning environments and technology-focused experimental labs—featuring colorful spaces and dynamic furnishings—exist beside more traditional study rooms. Carpet is the preferred floor finish within the majority of the library.

“Rich, intense colors were a key factor in the development of the library design, and once we found the Paste Up series we knew it was the right product. Of the many products we reviewed, only the Milliken Paste Up series responded aesthetically to our design intentions and targeted user groups.”

- Elaine Molinar, Managing Director for Snøhetta



The Importance of Performance

Heavy traffic, spills and stains are expected in a university library—so a flooring solution must be able to rise to the challenge. Milliken's Paste Up collection, available in 50cm modular tiles, offered the aesthetics and performance necessary to withstand a variety of activities through the coming years.

Maintenance on modular carpet is user-friendly—and damaged tiles are easily replaced.

Additionally, Milliken's carpet tiles with a Comfort Plus® cushion and TractionBack® technology is proven to be 10 times more efficient in reducing noise compared to other flooring options (Source: American Institute of Interior Designers).

"Milliken's cushion back carpet tiles are manufactured for heavy to severe traffic areas. Our tiles feature built-in antimicrobial protection, exceptional appearance retention ratings, and high indoor air quality ratings—all of which are important in these types of learning environments. Our product is a great match for the James B. Hunt Jr. Library."

- David Potter, Senior Territory Manager for Milliken's global floor covering division



State-of-the-art library technology is highly visible in the building's design to create dynamic learning environments and cater to a community built around knowledge.

Its five-story robotic 'bookBot' automated retrieval system is capable of holding 2,000,000 volumes in 1/9 the space of conventional shelving.

The system is supported by user-friendly browsing software, which enhances the traditional pleasure of browsing a collection by allowing users to see a virtual shelf of materials classified near the resources found by their initial search.

According to Molinar, the carpet colors selected refined the overall palette that complements the sophisticated learning environment, supporting its culture of innovation.

"Not only were we delighted with the beautiful vibrant colors of Milliken's Paste Up collection, we also felt that the edgy, rough patterns of the Space Invader line were exactly in tune with the spirit of an innovative university library."

- Elaine Molinar, Managing Director for Snøhetta