



KING COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM A CASE STUDY

"As we work to create inspiring learning environments for our community, we look to partner with like-minded companies to bring our vision to life. The expansiveness of Milliken technology draws us to collaborate and, in turn, push the limits of our learning spaces."

– David Scott-Risner, Architecture and Interior Design
Coordinator, King County Library System

Milliken™





Effective learning spaces utilize every inch to ignite the imagination. Each element carries the potential for dual purpose – to be incredibly functional and inspirational. King County Library System in Washington – one of the busiest library systems in the United States – believes this to be true, taking full advantage of advanced environments that can be created with Milliken.

Partners for more than ten years, King County Library System has worked with Milliken to create unique learning spaces for 48 community libraries – the majority of which were custom designs.

This case study highlights how Milliken floor covering technology silently works to provide optimal environments for life-long learning – functionally, aesthetically, experientially, and fiscally.



ALTERED FORM - Landlines (front) and Micro Flower Field (back) in Solar, monolithic tile installation

“Our public has come to expect this attention to detail. As we have evolved as a library system, so have our spaces. We’re no longer a quiet, controlled warehouse of books; we’re an inviting ‘third-space’ with a pronounced voice.”

- David Scott-Riser, Architecture and Interior Design Coordinator, King County Library System



FUNCTIONALLY SUPERIOR FLOOR COVERING TECHNOLOGY

Every single person in a library walks across the floor. It provides the biggest opportunity to reflect the user experience - particularly for children as they sit, play, and read.

For King County Library System, floor covering must be durable, spark imagination, and meet numerous other functional imperatives, many of which include:

- Withstand hundreds of daily library patrons as well as extensive cart wheel traffic

- Provide the ease-of-maintenance and expedited installation of modular carpet but with the aesthetic of broadloom
- Facilitate wayfinding and movement throughout libraries using color and pattern, while resisting fade amidst direct sun exposure
- Create a healthy interior environment where children can use the floor plane without worry

To meet these challenges, a PVC-free cushion backing increases comfort underfoot and extends the first life of the carpet by up to 50 percent. The cushion also improves acoustics by up to 40 percent for easy concentration, even in high traffic areas.



Large 1 m x 1 m carpet tiles with tight seaming ensure that tiles stay secure, while also offering the appearance of broadloom. Custom capabilities enable King County Library System to design patterns for intuitive user flow with superior print color quality. For added protection, built in AlphaSan® antimicrobial and StainSmart® stain/soil release and repel guard against penetrating liquid spills.

Jan Riley, operations supervisor at Vashon Library, believes features that improve health and safety are critical, especially with a large older population.

"Safety is a huge issue in learning environments. Milliken carpet lays down nicely, without any splitting or curled edges at tile seams. This is critical for children who run around the space and older patrons who use walkers," Riley shares. "Our community is very environmentally aware, and healthy materials are also important. Milliken's PVC-free carpet construction helps us know we are providing a safe interior environment for our community."



CUSTOM DESIGN - monolithic tile installation

“From a specification standpoint, Milliken floor covering is remarkable. However, what empowers the product is the ability for it to be more than just great. It can transform into what King County Library System represents and initiate a unique sense of place for each project.”

- David Scott-Risner, Architecture and Interior Design Coordinator, King County Library System



“The design of our libraries should represent everything King County Library System wants to accomplish – to provide an intellectual adventure for community members. With Milliken, we achieve this easily.”

- Adrienne Ralph, Facilities Design Coordinator, King County Library System

ALTERED FORM - Aerial Crops in Solar, monolithic tile installation

TOUGH CARPET THAT’S EASY TO CREATE

Milliken’s advanced design and printing technologies allow designers to create custom floor covering through a smooth process. The advantage for King County Library System: intentionally bring out the unique, emerging voice within a community – with unlimited possibilities of what the floor plane can be. In fact, nearly 90 percent of King County Library System facilities feature custom Milliken carpet.

- Milliken design software displays all surfaces and palettes; designers fine-tune for patterns that reflect their desired aesthetic and intentions.
- With étage, designers can add or remove layers of pattern from an existing collection, or create a custom motif, if time allows.
- Industry-leading print technology extends the availability of patterns – even ten years later – as they are not limited to a production year.
- Layers of pattern in various colors not only provide an imaginative environment, but also minimize visible stains for increased carpet longevity.



FEDERAL WAY 320TH LIBRARY

Designed in collaboration with SRG Architects, the interior uses various colors to enliven the library experience and reflect the diverse energy of the community, on the edge of a commercial corridor.

Custom carpet features a repetition of circles, which look hand drawn. The perimeter seating area features the same pattern, but in blue to mimic water and encourage a more reflective space.

CUSTOM DESIGN - monolithic tile installation



CUSTOM DESIGN - monolithic tile installation

Using the best possible floor covering is particularly vital in children's areas. With children reading, sitting, and crawling on the floor, the carpet is the most experienced surface. These everyday tactile interactions require that products be safe, healthy, and extremely durable.

For increased functionality, Milliken carpet comes standard with:

- StainSmart® stain repel/resist and soil release for easy everyday cleaning
- AlphaSan® anti-microbial protection, which protects against bacteria and other microbes that cause foul odors and discoloration
- PVC-free cushion backing for increased comfort and carpet longevity

Children's areas are also made special by creating a custom floor covering pattern unique to the remainder of the space. For the Vashon Library, designed by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, brightly colored monster critters add fun and whimsy to the children's section. According to Gregory Smith, director of facilities management services and development at King County Library System, "People comment on how beautiful the

libraries are – especially in communities with less privileged neighborhoods. They can feel safe and have access to tools they wouldn't normally – open spaces to do school work, and new, comfortable carpet to sit and play. Children comment on the carpet, too, saying 'look at this carpet, it is so cool!'"



SURVIVING THE ELEMENTS – AND ELEMENTARY KIDS

Thousands of people come through the doors of King County Library System community libraries each month, so carpet goes through the daily rigors of heavy foot and cart wheel traffic. Nonetheless, Milliken has performed in King County Library System spaces for more than 10 years – and is outlasting furniture in many spaces.

Color fade resistance also became important quality, especially at Vashon Library. The nearly all-glass façade

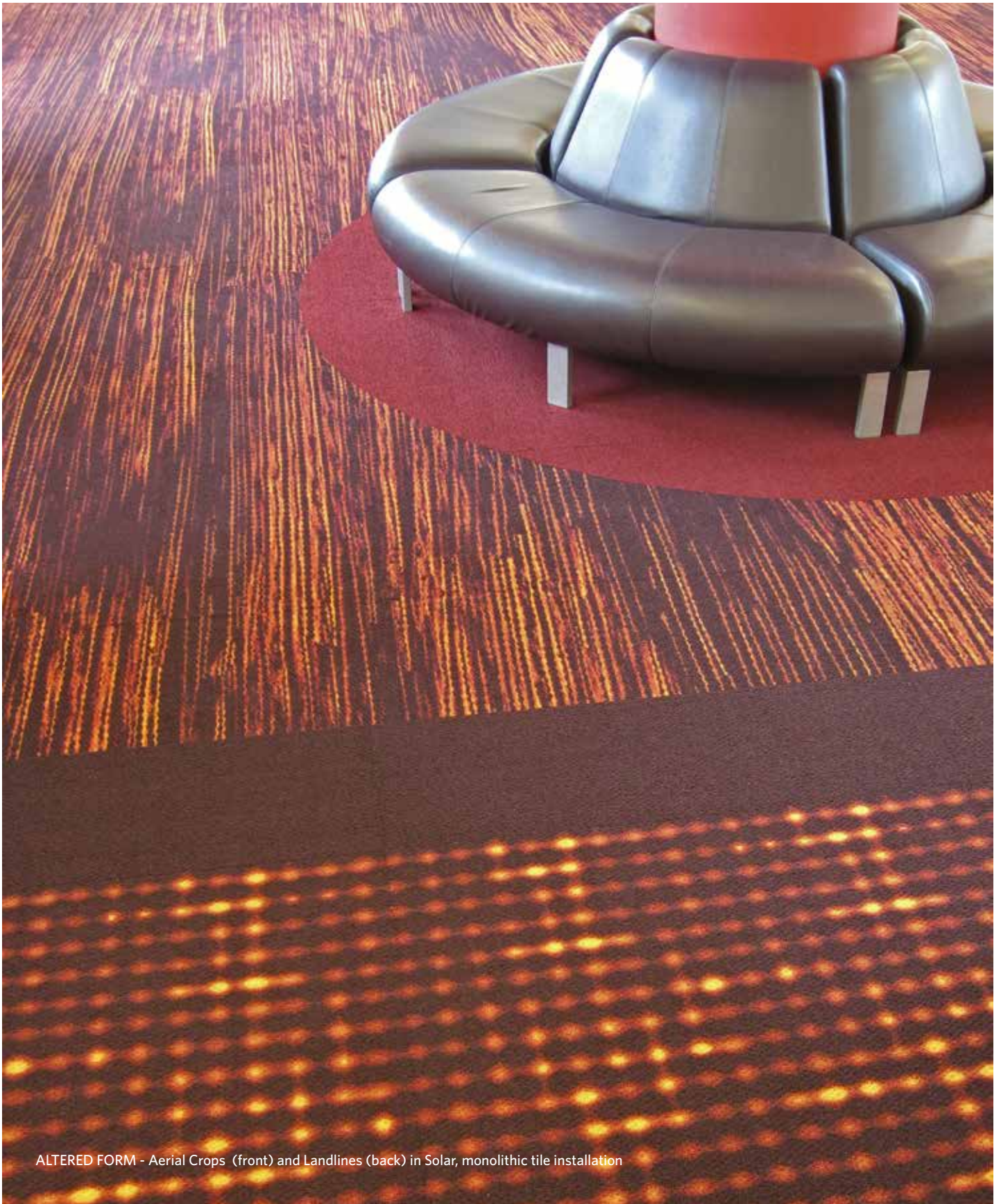
floods the library with sunlight – perfect for patrons, but requiring incredible color quality and fastness for the carpet to retain appearance over time.

To protect their carpet and provide a safe entryway during inclement weather, King County Library System uses First Appearances walk-off matting from Milliken. Approximately 15 feet is installed in building entryways where possible.



"The community supports the library system, from planning to opening. We attend public meetings to gather input when we open a new branch – and then create a custom space reflective of their hometown. It's a community experience, and it is evident on opening day when children and families pour in to use the new library."

- Adrianne Ralph, Facilities Design Coordinator, King County Library System



ALTERED FORM - Aerial Crops (front) and Landlines (back) in Solar, monolithic tile installation



Visit millikencarpet.com for more information.
Customer Concierge 800.824.2246 (USA and Canada)

On the cover: CUSTOM DESIGN - monolithic tile installation

Milliken™