

Case Study

The Paradigm Collection and the Johns Hopkins Health System

Crafted with Purpose

Mannington[®]
COMMERCIAL



The Challenge

When it comes to flooring for healthcare environments, the range of unique and often abusive conditions in these spaces can present a significant challenge to specifiers. “The flooring has to be safe, we have to be able to clean it, and it has to be durable. It’s very hard to find one flooring product that does all that,” says Teri Lura Bennett, Lead Interior Designer at the Johns Hopkins Health System (JHHS).

Tackling the Challenge with Evidence-Based Design

“We’re very heavy duty at JHHS,” says Bennett. “In some of the main areas of the Hospital, there can be 20,000 people walking through in a day.” With more than 9 million square feet of flooring at the Hospital campus alone, Bennett needed to determine which flooring products lived up to their claims and could be specified with confidence.

So Bennett and her team took an evidence-based approach, developing the Johns Hopkins Sustainable Flooring Test. They installed 15 flooring products in one of the busiest corridors of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Over the course of 3 months, the floors were subjected to heavy daily traffic and cleaning.

Heterogeneous sheet from Mannington Commercial’s Paradigm Collection was one of the products tested.

The Johns Hopkins Sustainable Flooring Test

All of the products in the test claimed to offer high performance, safety, the incorporation of green/sustainable materials, and easy maintenance without the requirement of a waxed finish.

The test included:

- Weekly observation of each installed sample’s performance and cleanliness, compared to uninstalled control samples
- A controlled stain test
- Wet and dry slip-resistance tests
- Acoustic measurements
- A furniture “drag test,” checking impact damage and seam integrity

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP IN FLOORING FOR HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENTS

Bennett’s report on the JHHS flooring test has been published by the Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI) as part of their Beyond Fundamentals program. Download the full report, “Testing Sustainable Flooring: A Johns Hopkins Health System Report,” by visiting the website: www.fgiguidelines.org.

The Solution

A New Paradigm in Flooring at Johns Hopkins

Throughout the 3-month test, "Mannington Commercial's Paradigm sheet vinyl product did beautifully," says Bennett. "It did so well, actually, that Paradigm is pretty much our first choice for any sheet vinyl project."

Bennett has since specified the Paradigm Collection in a variety of spaces across JHHS campuses, including the Skip Viragh Outpatient Building, the Johns Hopkins Breast Center and numerous office suites.

How Paradigm Makes It Easy to Do the Right Thing

The success of Paradigm at JHHS starts with its performance. Paradigm is engineered to withstand the heavy traffic and abuse of healthcare spaces. As Bennett says, "Everything looks beautiful on Day 1, but does it still look good 6 months later? Paradigm has lived up to its test performance in the actual installations."

With its endurance and cleanability, Paradigm helps Bennett meet one of her main design goals for healthcare spaces: to make it easy for the staff using the environment to do the right thing. "I try to make it easy for people to keep things clean, to find what they need, and so on. Everything is simply where it needs to be and looks like it should, and the person can just do their job."

To this end, Paradigm's ease of cleaning is one of the key benefits for Bennett: "I am consistently told by EVC [the Environmental Care team] that Paradigm is the easiest to maintain of all the new flooring I've installed."

Solving a Design Conundrum

Paradigm features abstract visuals in a sophisticated palette to create a warm, upscale aesthetic. The collection has helped Bennett solve "a conundrum in healthcare design." She explains, healthcare spaces "need to be clean, need to be perceived as clean, and need the feeling of hospitality, of 'home-iness.' Paradigm allows me to give the hospitality, residential look and aesthetic, but in a product that I can keep clean."

The collection is also designed for easy coordination with Mannington Commercial's other hard surface and carpet collections, helping Bennett build coherence across spaces with different flooring needs.

"We've been able to expand our design palette with the Divergent LVT product," says Bennett. "In areas where we would want to use an LVT, we can use that coordinate product, which carries the same color line and the same design aesthetic as Paradigm."

AN EVEN GREATER SOLUTION: QUANTUM GUARD ELITE TECHNOLOGY

With the development of Quantum Guard Elite, the cleanability and performance that drew Johns Hopkins to Paradigm has been enhanced even further. Mannington Commercial's Quantum Guard Elite technology is tested and proven to give Paradigm and other hard surface collections industry-leading ease of maintenance, stain resistance and abrasion resistance.



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ACHIEVING A BALANCE OF FORM AND FUNCTION IN HEALTHCARE DESIGN

"You want to wow people with your design, but you also want performance characteristics," says Bennett. "I want it to look fabulous, and I want us to be able to take care of it."

The Paradigm Collection by Mannington Commercial delivers the ease of care and exceptional performance that the Johns Hopkins Health System needs, with sophisticated beauty.



Delivering the Complete Solution

Bennett's perspective on Paradigm is informed not only by years of experience in healthcare design (her focus since 1991), but also by her unique background.

"My first career was as a Registered Nurse in a coronary care unit," she explains. "So in designing for healthcare, my background gives me credibility with the people who will use the environment. They know that I'm not going to bring something to them that isn't, hopefully, the best product for them."

For Bennett and JHHS, Paradigm by Mannington Commercial is one of these "best products," meeting the demands of cleanability, performance and beauty to deliver a complete flooring solution.

Crafted with Purpose for Healthcare Spaces

Mannington Commercial has a long and proven legacy of creating flooring that supports the complex needs of healthcare environments. Mannington Commercial's products are crafted not simply with healthcare in mind, but with actual, ongoing feedback and input from the healthcare industry.

"Dialogue with customers like Teri Bennett and the Johns Hopkins Health System allows us to better understand their overall design and performance intent," says Kathy Griffel, Mannington Commercial Director of Healthcare. "Healthcare spaces are a key focus at Mannington Commercial, and we develop our flooring from a holistic point of view to meet the performance needs of these challenging environments. We evaluate our products not only in terms of the design, wear layer or structure, but with a sense of how all the components will work together to deliver a high-performance solution for our customers. We take it a step further by designing products that integrate with our other flooring products, giving our customers a total performance system."

The purpose of Mannington Commercial's products and people is to help specifiers solve their toughest challenges, simply and effectively. In her work to provide the Johns Hopkins Health System with thoughtfully designed flooring that answers myriad needs, says Bennett, "I consider Mannington Commercial to be a true partner."

