

## Case Study

# Alvar Branch Library



### Details

Location: New Orleans, LA  
Description: 2,375 square-feet of  
ECOsurfaces  
Flooring Choice:  
ECOsurfaces various color  
patterns

### Project Needs

Durability and versatility  
Easily maintained  
Acoustic composition  
Lively and vivid color palette

### Project Benefits

Long lasting performance  
Simple maintenance requirements  
Sound reduction  
Extensive design and color options

# Historic Site Brought Back to Life with Some Help From ECOsurfaces

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. 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 ECO nights 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.

