

## Case Study

# San Diego Library, Central Branch



### Details

Location: San Diego, CA

Description: 25,000 square-feet of  
ECOsurfaces

Flooring Choice:

ECOsurfaces Sixteen colors  
including Sand Shark, Chuky  
Munky, River Rock, Blueberry Hill  
and Hot Tamale

### Project Needs

Quiet underfoot

Durable

Easy-to-clean

Hygienic

Attractive

### Project Benefits

Quality

Wears well

Sustainable

Customizable

# New 366,673 Square-Foot Library Was Worth The Wait

The long awaited and highly anticipated new San Diego Central Library was completed in September 2013. One of the largest municipal projects in San Diego's history, the library cost \$184.9 million dollars and took nearly 30 years to complete. "Funding is the reason this project took so long," said Lynn Barnhouse, owner of Barnhouse Office LLC and Library Planner and Interior Designer for the Central Library. "This project was a partnership of public and private financing."

The 497,652-square-foot building takes up a whole city block and has 9 floors. The 366,673-square-foot library houses a collection of 1.26 M items - not just books - and features art, media, computers, 350-seat auditorium, 3-story domed reading room, 333-seat multi-purpose room, teen center, children's room, technology center, and outdoor garden courtyard and café. E3 Civic High School, a charter school, occupies the sixth and seventh floors of the building, and there are two floors of public parking underground.

When it came time to select flooring for the new Central Library, Barnhouse recommended ECOsurfaces. "I love the product and have used it a lot," said Barnhouse. "Our initial proposal was to do the entire building with ECOsurfaces." The library features 25,000-squarefeet of ECOsurfaces, which was installed by ReSource Floors, Inc. and is manufactured by ECORE, a company that transforms reclaimed waste into unique performance surfacing. This recycled rubber flooring brings sophisticated neutrals to a new level, while also offering a unified look to provide many different design options.

Since southern California is fond of indoor/outdoor living, there is a tradition of using the same building materials outdoors and indoors. The predominant building materials used in the library are poured concrete, galvanized metal, and wood. The ECOsurfaces flooring provided an opportunity to differentiate each floor with a customized color and flooring pattern. "We wanted every level of the library to have its own identity," said Barnhouse. "ECOsurfaces

products in all different colors were installed and are in the most prominent places. There is about 1,500-square-feet of ECOsurfaces on every floor." The rubber flooring surrounds the elevator core and is underneath the service desk and public computers. "You can find ECOsurfaces flooring in other areas of the library too. People love it, I didn't get any complaints," said Barnhouse. The library's previous location was a quarter of the size and had linoleum floors. "We wanted the new floor to be made of a more acoustically absorptive material," said Barnhouse. By specifying ECOsurfaces, Barnhouse also knew the floor would be hygienic, easy-to-clean, and durable. "ECOsurfaces is a really honest product that is going to last a really long time," said Barnhouse. "The library isn't going to have any durability issues with it in the high traffic areas. I haven't had any problems with it over the years. We needed a fool-proof material that was really good quality and performs really well. There is so much potential with its colors, patterns and customization."

