

## Case Study

# Southampton Arts Center



### Details

Location: Southampton, NY  
Description: ECOsurfaces  
Flooring Choice:  
ECOsurfaces Bit-O-Honey

### Project Needs

Aesthetic Appeal  
Ease of Maintenance

### Project Benefits

Improved Ergonomics  
Ease of Installation

# ECOsurfaces Donates Surfacing to Historic Southampton Arts Center

Located in the heart of Southampton Village, the Southampton Arts Center stands as a beacon of artistic, cultural, and historic expression in its community. The Southampton Arts Center aims to strengthen arts and culture for its community by providing cultural programming that is free and open to the public. Some of the cultural programming options include visual arts, film, live performances and talks, and other activities for children.

In the spring of 2014, the American Institute of Architect's (AIA) chapter for eastern Long Island (AIA Peconic) started working on the renovation of the Southampton Arts Center as a "pro bono" community service project. The executive director at AIA Peconic, Kay Jones remembered, then Ecore representative Christopher Capobianco, because of his continuing education seminars. Given Capobianco's expertise in commercial floor coverings and his status as an AIA Peconic Allied Member, Jones referred him to the AIA President, Luis Peris, for his flooring suggestions.

After looking at the space and speaking with the staff at the Arts Center, Capobianco decided rubber would be a good option, because of its acoustic and ergonomic characteristics. As such, Capobianco then suggested Ecore, a

company that transforms reclaimed waste into performance surfaces that make people's lives better, make a flooring donation for the project.

Ecore agreed to donate the surfacing for Southampton Arts Center's renovation and recommended a product from Ecore Commercial Flooring's ECOsurfaces Classic Collection. Peris and others at the Arts Center selected Bit-O-Honey as the flooring color. As a relatively neutral color, Bit-O-Honey was a great choice because it managed to look appealing without detracting from the beauty of the artwork displayed at the museum. "The lighter and warmer colors work well with the wood floors on the upper gallery and brightens the whole space," said Peris, "It also works well with large contemporary art on the walls as this style flooring, with its seamless appearance, provides a great neutral background."

Versatile, durable, and made from performance rubber, ECOsurfaces Classic's 4-foot wide rubber flooring is ideal for all commercial environments. ECOsurfaces Classic absorbs energy, vibration, and noise, which makes it a perfect fit for art centers and museums. "Art galleries are notorious for being live spaces, as most of the surfaces are hard surfaces so the sound bounces around quite easily and can build up to annoying levels," stated Peris, "The rubber flooring definitely has made a difference

to the point that the center has not needed to take any additional measures for sound attenuation."

Peris also noted how the ergonomic benefits and ease of maintenance that ECOsurfaces Classic provides makes it a perfect surface for the Art Center's family art programming, which frequently involves children rolling around on the floor. "The flooring is very comfortable underfoot, knees and hands," said Peris, "Just about anything and everything will end up on the floor at some point or another, so simplified maintenance was an important factor in recommending this flooring."

Overtime, this product has evolved from a novelty of the sustainability movement into a staple in the interior landscape due to its acoustic and ergonomic characteristics as well as its aesthetic appeal. In a space that typically demands silence, like an art gallery, these characteristics of ECOsurfaces Classic were especially important. The installation of ECOsurfaces Classic not only ensured that there would be a quiet environment for the Art Center's visitors and employees, but also that the surface was comfortable underfoot and easy to maintain.

