

STONHARD® Solutions

Creating a Child-Friendly Design to Meet Grown-up Expectations

Products used at Cooks Children's Medical Center
• Stonres® RTZ

When Cook Children's Medical Center (CCMC) in Fort Worth, Texas, undertook a \$53 million expansion, it chose firms with a reputation for innovation and an appreciation for the importance of creating a child-friendly environment. The team representing the architect, interior designer, builder and hospital were faced with a dilemma when it came time to select the flooring.

The designer's goal was to use colors and patterns in the floors to:

- Appeal to children
- Inspire healing
- Soften what was traditionally thought of as a sterile hospital environment
- Distinguish one area from another
- Help traffic flow

However, the team needed a product that met the hospital's stringent requirements, including:

- Hygienic surface
- Stain resistance
- Seamless surface
- Low maintenance
- Acoustical dampening
- Superior durability
- Slip resistance
- Scuff resistance
- Ergonomic



The resinous, poured-in-place flooring enabled the team to create large open areas with low-maintenance seamless floors that never need waxing.

Could the team find a product that offered all of these features without sacrificing the goal of creating a design that would please both the children and the medical staff? Realizing that the vinyl flooring used in the past hadn't lived up to expectations, project architect, Anne Mullins, with FKP Architects, Inc. spent months searching for the ideal flooring. When she attended a "lunch and learn" sponsored by Stonhard, Mullins discovered Stonhard's Stonblend RTZ, a stylized urethane floor system infused with multi-colored rubber aggregate chips to produce a durable and high performance system while allowing intricate patterns and unique design capabilities. Stonblend RTZ was the winning solution.

Mullins was determined to create the perfect environment for children. She arranged for the design team to begin experimenting with colors and patterns. With lower maintenance and at least a 15-year life, Stonblend RTZ's durability offered the hospital considerable life-cycle cost savings over traditional vinyl flooring.

But would the product stand up to the rigorous needs of a hospital? Mullins took a sample of RTZ to the CCMC's environmental services staff and challenged them to destroy it." After pouring betadine on the RTZ sample and letting it puddle for a week, they were able to wipe the betadine without any staining. The decision to specify the product was clinched.



Playful, geometric patterns in the flooring appeal to children and meet stringent hospital requirements.

Tom Greene, an architect with David M. Schwarz, the firm responsible for interior design, noted, “The flooring plan included nurses’ stations, corridors, isolation rooms, patient rooms and restrooms. By changing colors and patterns, the flooring could be used to identify hallway intersections, help traffic flow and distinguish one area from another.”

Barbara Greer, RN, BSN, Director, NICU, Medical Floor sees advantages for her staff. Greer claims she loves the “wow” impact of the colorful design on children and their families.

This new addition to CCMC accommodates 81 additional beds for children in areas of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Newborn Intensive Care Unit and general medical and surgical areas. Stonhard’s revolutionary RTZ product was the winning solution to the flooring dilemma. The team achieved its goal to create a child-friendly design that meets grown-up expectations.

The Stonhard Difference

Stonhard is a world-leading manufacturer and installer of high-performance polymer floor, wall and lining systems designed for tough commercial and industrial environments requiring protection against corrosion, impact, abrasion and continuous daily wear. We deliver long-lasting, high-performance systems for tough environments. We offer customized solutions to satisfy the most demanding design specifications and work with you directly from start to finish. You are protected with a single-source warranty on both products and workmanship.



Designers used patterns and colors in the flooring to distinguish one area from another and guide traffic flow.



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