

University of Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN

Interface®



ELEVATING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE WHILE MAINTAINING HISTORICAL CHARM

Founded in 1902, the University of Indianapolis is home to more than 5,500 students and 600 faculty each academic year. The school shares its roots with the surrounding community, and at its center stands Good Hall, the first building erected on campus. More than a century later, Good Hall was due for some much-needed renovations, and University of Indiana's design and construction management teams sought ways to revitalize the building and promote a positive learning environment without sacrificing historical significance.

"The university was at a fluctuation point as to whether or not to leverage Good Hall, invest in it and make it a destination on campus or to pull back and find other classroom spaces," said Chris Lake, Co-Founder and Partner at DELV Design. "When they made the decision to reinvest in the building, it was a unique challenge for us because while it had this great design and rich history when it was originally built, it had been whitewashed over the years. We had to find a way to not only upgrade it and make it modern in the ways that students are taught



in the classrooms, but also in the way it looked while keeping this historic charm."

One of the first things the DELV team considered was how the built environment can enhance and help students learn better. "Classrooms are no longer rows of chairs facing the front of the room and a teacher lecturing from a book or blackboard – they are activated, the seating is movable, students are working in groups," Lake added. "So, we needed an environment that was adaptable and would function at a high level."

"The built environment is so important for higher education because the classroom is being set up to promote success for both teachers and students, so it's our job as designers to provide the materials to foster a successful learning environment," said Marissa Gegg, Interior Designer at DELV Design.



Impact of Sound

The designers also noted how critical acoustics are in the learning environment. "The unseen elements can really have a huge impact in the classroom, like the acoustics," said Gegg. "We gauge the acoustic needs of the classroom and then try to implement those with the finishes because it's one of those elements that can be exceedingly impactful. Optimal acoustics can create a more comfortable and healthy learning environment."

"Acoustic value is big," agrees John Leck, Construction Project Manager for University of Indianapolis. "This building was built in 1902, so you're going to hear the creaks and cracks. Having a quality carpet that offers acoustic value to deaden some of those noises is very integral to our selection and use of a product."

Reliability for the Long-Term

Material selection for this renovation was also influenced by maintenance needs. Noting the volume of floor space covering Good Hall and the difficulty of repairing or replacing flooring in an active academic environment, Leck wanted a quality product that would stand the test of time. "With the amount of square footage of carpet we have to maintain on campus, quality is key. We want something that is going to be stain resistant, if not stain free," he explained. "We want to be able to remove a stain or, worse case scenario, replace that carpet quickly and easily."

That need drew the team to Interface's QuickShip program, which offers a selection of more than 290 product and color combinations for shipment in just two weeks.

"I use QuickShip all the time. Knowing there's a carpet in the QuickShip program

"When we started looking at the flooring solutions we needed in the building, we were able to find everything throughout the Interface family of products."
– Chris Lake, co-founder and partner, DELV Design

sometimes informs what product we are selecting as we know it can be shipped to the site as soon as possible," said Gegg.

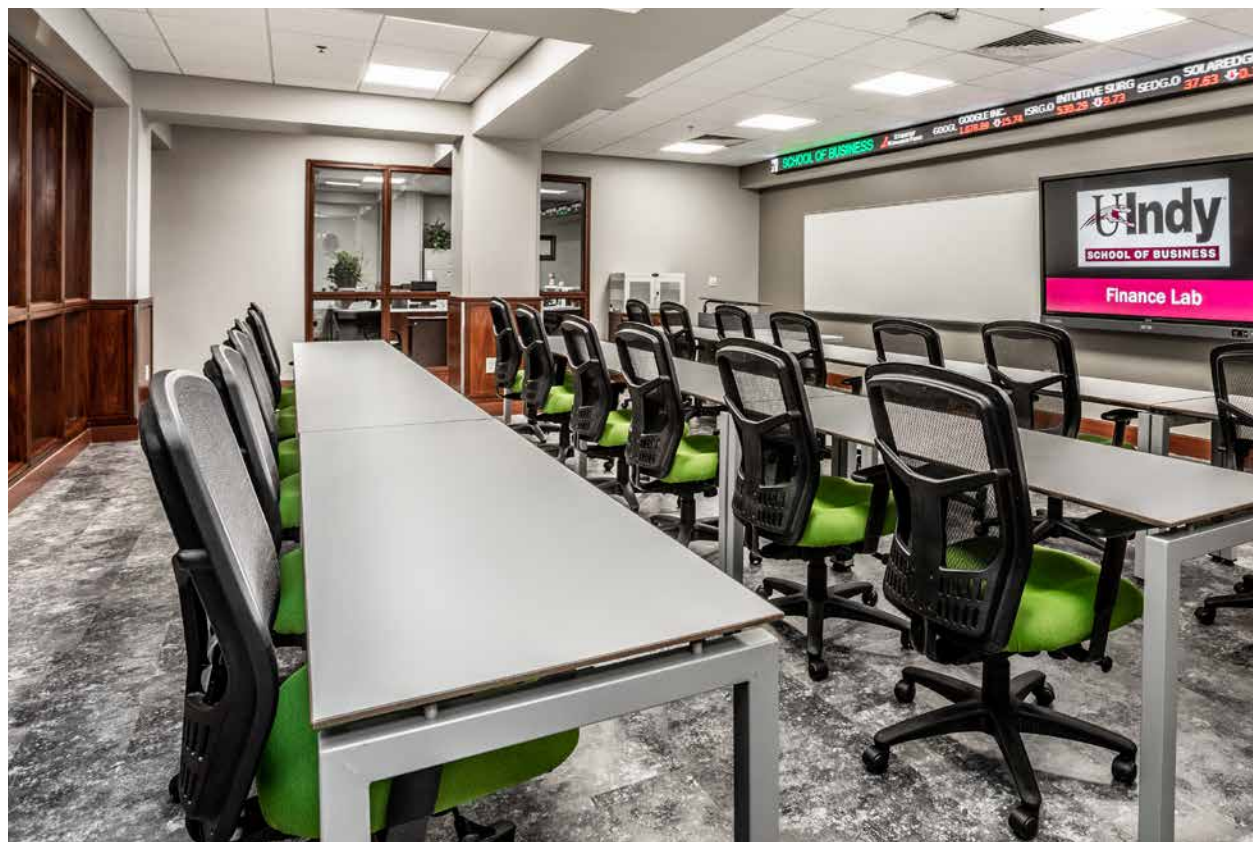
"I'm a big fan of a product that the minute I buy it, I know I can buy it again, even in 30 years," said Leck. "That's especially important here on campus, as we know that at any moment we could be renovating a space and I need to be able to get that covered quickly. Interface is going to have a product that we can get here on time to meet our deadlines for school to operate."

Sustainable Future

The team was also impressed by Interface's commitment to sustainability practices and wanted that reflected in their flooring selection for Good Hall. "Sustainability is something that's coming to the forefront on most campuses. It's nice to be able to provide vendors like Interface to show our students and community that we take sustainability seriously and want to be sustainable moving forward," said Leck.

"Sustainability is probably the most important element in design today," explained Lake.

"The advent of LEED really pushed manufacturers as well as designers to the





“[Interface’s] quality, longevity, and customer service are nothing but great.”
– John Leck, construction project manager, University of Indianapolis

next level of material and product design and recycled content."

"It's important for us to find a manufacturer who genuinely cares about sustainability and is concerned with the manufacturing and disposal of the carpet and does that in a responsible way," Gegg said. "It's our job as designers to be sure we're being sensible of those decisions. We try to partner with and specify manufacturers that hold sustainability as a high standard."

When Good Hall reopened with the new school year, the team was pleased by the positive reactions from students, faculty and alumni. "It was a fun challenge to try to preserve the historical elements of the building while giving it a fresh look with modern finishes, making it feel more comfortable and newer" remembers Gegg. "The flooring allowed us to bring in the University red in a fun, creative way that brings pride to the campus."

"How do you pay homage to the history, add a modern element to the building and create a space that when students walk in, they say 'wow'? It's about the finishes, and flooring is where we're able to introduce pattern and color without being overbearing," said Lake. "Seeing students on their first day back, they were amazed at this new contextual space that they could learn in and experience versus what it used to be."

"I was introduced to Interface's product line through DELV and since then it's become almost our exclusive vendor when it comes to flooring," Leck added. "I don't think twice about what products I show to end users, it's either coming from the QuickShip booklet or from Interface's large selection. Their quality, longevity and customer service are nothing but great."

PROJECT DETAILS

Facility University of Indianapolis

Location Indianapolis, IN

Architect/Interiors DELV Design

Photography The Addison Group and Studio 13, LLC

Interface Products Shown Carpet: Detours™, Viva Colores™, On Line™, Aerial™ Collection; LVT: Boundary Metallics™



THE SHORT STORY – WHY INTERFACE?

- 1 *QuickShip Options – The breadth of style and color options in Interface's QuickShip program make it easy to work within the standard product line.*
- 2 *Quieter Spaces – Interface flooring offers optimum sound reduction for a more peaceful atmosphere.*
- 3 *Built to Last – Interface carpet tiles and LVT are built to withstand heavy foot traffic and rolling loads with minimal daily maintenance from in-house staff.*
- 4 *Sustainability – Interface leads the industry in environmental stewardship, which helps the University in its sustainability goals.*