CORPORATE

U.S. Green Building Council
Washington, D.C.

Achieving the Ultimate Challenge for the New USGBC HQ

→ In a year's time, designers at Envision Design helped the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) build an innovative new headquarters that became the first project to certify using the latest version of the LEED® rating system. To make things more challenging, the design team set out to exceed the minimum points for LEED® Platinum and achieve a 50 percent reduction in connected lighting load below ASHRAE standards. In the end, the project achieved LEED® Platinum certification with 94 points, 14 more points than the required minimum.

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CASE STUDY:

U.S. Green Building Council Washington, D.C.

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"Clean, sophisticated and classically modern design," is the way Ken Wilson, principal of Envision Design, describes the 75,000 square foot new USGBC headquarters in Washington, D.C.

One of the most unique aspects of the space is the highly transparent design of the office. All private offices feature butt-joined glass, as well as glass office doors, and interior offices have glass on all sides to maximize natural light penetration, provide all employees with a view and create a great sense of openness.

Achieving such an aggressive goal as LEED Platinum required an integrated design approach where all of the key players were brought together on a regular basis. "It was great to have all of the various disciplines that work on a project come together to solve a problem," said Wilson. "This process also created an environment very conducive to truly innovative thinking."

This integrated design team considered various environmental factors when designing the space, including energy use, green material selection, indoor environmental quality, human health and well-being. The carpet specification was no exception.

The most important consideration in the carpet decision was a combination of aesthetics, environmental responsibility, performance and maintenance. Because carpet was used throughout the majority of the space, the design team carefully selected the manufacturer, style and carpet fiber with environmental attributes in mind. The only areas not carpeted were the reception area, employee break room, copy rooms and service rooms. All work areas, conference rooms and corridors have carpet.

> *"Long-term performance is one of the best measures for SUSTAINABILITY."*
>
> *– Ken Wilson, principal of Envision Design*

"We think Lees Duracolor® stain resistance is unique and adds to the environmental characteristics of the carpet by eliminating the need for cleaning chemicals," said Wilson. "Additionally, the Lees carpet styles selected were all are manufactured with Antron Legacy™ nylon, which is certified by SCS Global Services as an Environmentally Preferable Product and is one of the most durable carpet fibers that will ensure the carpet provides our client long-term performance."

In addition to its environmental attributes, carpet also adds warmth to the space and provides some acoustic value that is important in an open office setting. Designers chose three different colors of carpet, which helps to give a greater sense of identity to various areas of the project.

The carpet selected was clean and simple with more texture than pattern so that it would tie into the aesthetic look of the space. The carpet installed in open offices and corridors is "Ground Strata", the carpet used in conference rooms is "The Field," and the carpet used in perimeter corridors and vice-president's offices is "The Groove," all by Lees.

When asked what one of the best environmental benefits of the carpet is, Wilson said, "Because the carpet is made with Antron® fiber and Lees Duracolor® stain resistance, we expect the carpet to last well beyond the life of the project. Long-term performance is one of the best measures for sustainability."

To learn more, contact your local Antron® Fiber Consultant or visit antron.net.

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