

Glenview School District

kinetex. Textile Composite Flooring





The Project

Glenview School District 34 supports Pre-K through 8th grade students. The district, which operates 3 primary, 3 intermediary and 2 middle schools, is in the midst of a facilities transformation led by FGM Architects (FGMA). FGMA provided planning and design services for this multi-year initiative. The master facilities plan addresses two urgent priorities: 1) completing long-deferred repairs and maintenance of aging buildings and, 2) expanding/renovating facilities to support 21st century curriculum and instruction.

A key goal of the initiative is expanding and renovating the district's 3 primary schools to accommodate full-day kindergarten programs which launched in fall 2022. FGMA designed and built one-story additions at each school tailored to its unique site context. Each school received 8 new classrooms that are appropriately sized and equipped as well as a multipurpose room, toilet facilities and spaces for support services.



The Challenge

FGMA's design for the new classrooms was informed by a 2018 participatory pilot project in which one classroom was renovated at each school. By testing different options for furniture, flooring, color, and lighting and gathering teacher feedback, designers created optimal early learning environments that support student-centered learning and discovery.

Each school evaluated a combination of floor and wall finishes in one pilot classroom. The pilot was designed so that teachers could experience distinctive design options and reach consensus about what worked best in terms of material type, colors, and patterns. For example, the pilot included a test of Kinetex flooring products compared to Rubber, LVT, and standard carpet tile. Teachers loved the soft feel of the textile composite with the durability of a hard floor solution.

Glenview police and fire department required to color-code the corridors of its schools so that first responders can act quickly in an emergency. Consequently, the design team developed the classroom finish palettes to coordinate with the primary colors chosen for this wayfinding in each school's corridors. The Kinetex Network pattern offers twenty-four colorways which was essential in providing the color range the design team needed. It made coordinating the varying school colors and buildings easy.

A literal sticking point, a carpet dot.

The elementary teachers wanted area rugs and sit carpet dots to space kids apart from each other during reading time. The arc design suggests a gathering zone, and the size was scaled to fit thirty-two students in front of the primary teaching wall.



The Solution

The design solution was 24 x 24 carpet tiles which spatially suggest each child's seating spot. By installing Provision quarter turned, the shift in pattern and color in the light, clearly shows the visual delineation of each carpet square. The classrooms all include Kinetex, which facilitates easy transitions between rooms. In addition, the warm neutral color tones and patterns provide a subtle and welcome antidote to sensory overload.

"I first experienced Kinetex 8 years ago when I was specializing in healthcare design. My response is always the same with education clients when they ask if its durable. "Kinetex is used in hospitals because urine and blood bead to the surface instead of seeping into carpet fibers. Those conditions also take place in schools but not advertised." - Samantha Blum -Senior Interior Designer | FGM Architects



The Details

Design Firm:	FGM Architects
Locations:	Springman MS, Lyon ES, Henking ES, Westbrook ES
Flooring Contractor:	Consolidated Flooring
Location:	Glenview, Illinois
Products:	Against the Grain Network Provision

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P.O. BOX 2207
DALTON, GA 30722
P 800 241 4586
F 706 275 4433
JJFLOORING.COM

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