

## University Recycles With Style

Eastern Connecticut State University implemented recycling practices long before “Going Green” became a recognizable buzz phrase. Along with the catchy phrase came a new approach to recycling receptacles. No longer were the utilitarian forerunners the containers of choice. Institutions of higher learning were looking for a more aesthetically pleasing container in which to dispose of trash in an ecologically friendly way.

Function met beauty at Eastern Connecticut State when the decision was made to carry the recycling practice. Nancy Tinker, director of Facilities Management and Planning, was given the responsibility of finding recycling containers which would be not only functional, but also enhance the existing beauty of the campus. Fortunately, she knew where to start. Ms. Tinker had previously purchased benches

for the University, which she knew met the level of quality identified in the Campus Design Guidelines, so it made sense to contact that site furnishings manufacturer when she began looking for suitable recycling receptacles for outdoors.

Tinker contacted O’Brien and Sons, the local representative for *DuMor, Inc.*, the manufacturer of the benches, to talk about the possibility of customizing these recycling containers. After learning that DuMor could customize receptacles, she worked with O’Brien and Sons to develop a set of recycling receptacles, which would become the standard for the Eastern Connecticut State University outdoor space.

Since the Clock Tower, a building on campus, is an icon for the University and is used on much of its literature, letterhead, and Website, Tinker decided to use



The end result of Nancy Tinker’s custom recycling receptacle design with DuMor was one that supported the University’s recycling practices in a beautifully functional way.

that as well as the school colors, maroon and blue, as the basis for the design. DuMor was able to laser cut the silhouette of the tower into the maroon and blue powder-coated receptacles, and then install a maroon or blue contrasting color shield made of steel inside the can.

**CIRCLE 245 ON FREE INFORMATION PAGE**

## University Finds Efficiency and Green Flooring

The University of Richmond, founded in 1830, is the second-oldest private university in Virginia. A quest for new carpet at the university turned into a lesson in efficiency and sustainability.

On college and university campuses, carpets have a life span of seven to 10 years. Over many decades, worn carpets have contributed to landfill growth — a last-choice alternative for environmentalists.

When the University of Richmond determined a need for replacement carpet for its media resource center, classrooms, dormitories, and corridors, the school’s facilities department and design groups went to work on a cost comparison of available products and installation costs. The analysis showed the installed cost of broadloom and modular tile were very close.

“We decided to evaluate further by

specifying carpet tile for our next round of installations,” said Carolyn Burruss, University Services interior designer. “I had come from a facility that was standardized on tile from InterfaceFLOR, and I knew it to be a good company with a quality product line.”

To make the purchase easy and efficient, the university utilized the InterfaceFLOR contract in place with *E&I Cooperative Purchasing*. “Green products are a high priority for us, and with a longer life cycle, this product was very cost-effective,” said Betsy Andress, director of University Services. “Last year we installed the tile product in a whole residence hall, and because we can replace any problem area easily, we should double the life expectancy of the installation.”

Andress reiterated the value of using



The University of Richmond’s E&I contract for InterfaceFLOR gives the University access to national pricing on the flooring products they prefer.

the E&I contract for InterfaceFLOR. “The E&I contract gives us access to national pricing on the flooring products we prefer,” she explained. “We’ve used other E&I contracts as well, and we always look there first to see if there’s a contract we can use.” 

**CIRCLE 246 ON FREE INFORMATION PAGE**