



Case Study

St. Luke's Pediatric Specialty Center

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The Challenge: St. Luke's Pediatric Specialty Center

Reimagining Pediatric Spaces

Diving into an undersea adventure. Tracking the footprints of Africa's wildest animals. Rocketing through the Milky Way. What if going to see a pediatrician could mean doing these things—entering a friendly world of imagination and play? At St. Luke's Pediatric Specialty Center in Center Valley, Pennsylvania, this possibility comes to life.

"The goals I had for the project were to create a space for children that was welcoming, fun—a space they wanted to come to when they were going to the doctor," said Elizabeth Srock, interior designer and network construction project manager for St. Luke's University Health Network in Pennsylvania.

Helping Kids (and Parents) Feel Better

Supporting the emotional needs of kids and parents in the facility was paramount, as Elizabeth has personal experience with the stress that can surround children's medical care. "This project is very near and dear to my heart," she explained. "My middle daughter is on the spectrum, so we've been at doctor's appointments since she was 15 months old. She was the child that would run out of the doctor's office. It gave me anxiety, going to the doctor. So I wanted the space to be a place that these kids wanted to come. That takes the anxiety off the parents."

Location:
Center Valley, PA, USA

Facility Type:
Healthcare

Size:
37,500 sq ft

Products:
Amtico Signature® Collection LVT
Color Anchor Collection:
ColorSpec® Rubber Tile
ColorSpec® Stair Treads
Burkebase® Wall Base

Facilitating High-Quality Care

The new facility also needed to deliver on St. Luke's reputation as a leader in clinical quality and patient safety. Elizabeth noted, "We are launching our pediatric department, and this is the first specialty pavilion within our network that has all of the physicians at the same location." The center would serve as a paradigm of advanced, patient-centered care. Spaces needed to support children, parents, and staff by being:

- Simple to navigate, helping kids and parents find their destination in a fun and stress-free way.
- Easy to clean, protecting the health of all visitors and staff through rigorous infection control measures.
- Focused on safety and comfort, helping to prevent slips and falls while giving children and parents a welcoming environment.
- Tailored to the clinical activity of each area in a way that was playful and calming, putting kids at ease and enabling positive and productive relationships with their nurses and doctors.

The entire facility needed to work in harmony to give patients and their families the experience of total care that they expect from St. Luke's—all while being sensitive to the needs of pediatric patients and bringing them comfort during what could be a high-stress situation. As it turned out, making this happen all started with the floor.

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Elizabeth Srock

*Interior designer & Network
Construction Project Manager,
St. Luke's University Health Network*





The Solution

Charting a New Path

Elizabeth's design began with the idea of colorful intertwining ribbons inset in the floor, guiding children and parents through the corridors of the building and assisting with wayfinding in a fun, kid-friendly way. She sent Mannington Commercial's Amtico custom design team "a literal napkin sketch of the design I wanted on the floor. And with one meeting of sending them what I wanted, I got back exactly what I had envisioned. They really understood what I was looking for and made the whole process super easy."

Expanding the Design

Elizabeth grew her design concept with the support of Mannington Commercial's custom capabilities and range of coordinating flooring products. She wanted to engage kids with an enjoyable experience that transformed a visit to the doctor into a world of play, creating the entire facility as a journey through the ocean, across the Earth, and into the cosmos:

- Level one is an undersea adventure, with flooring insets of bubbles and sea creatures.
- Level two is a safari exploration, with different continents and their animals identifying different medical wings.
- Level three is a journey through outer space, with designs of rockets, comets and galaxies inset into the floor.
- Linking the levels are elevators designed as hot air balloons and staircases as colorful as rainbows.

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Telling a Cohesive Story

Mannington Commercial's Amtico LVT and rubber flooring products are used throughout the facility: they deliver the safety, durability, and cleanability that healthcare spaces like St. Luke's demand, while enabling easy design customization. Color coordination across the flooring and wall base connects spaces in a cohesive experience, while custom-cut flooring insets of animals, rocket ships, and playful motifs help tell the story.

With color-coded flooring insets providing wayfinding throughout the corridors, and themed insets turning waiting rooms and exam rooms into places that spark children's imaginations, Elizabeth's flooring designs successfully use play to help alleviate anxiety around navigating and procedures.

Making Healthcare Kid-Friendly

Designing the Pulmonary wing for the facility was a special place where Elizabeth hoped to turn a procedure into a fun adventure. In this wing, children performing pulmonary function tests are asked to walk up and down a long corridor. Knowing this could be an unpleasant experience for kids, Elizabeth designed animal scenes for the walls and colorful insets of the animals' footprints and names for the floor.

Now as children walk up and down the corridor, they can have a fun, educational experience. Parents and St. Luke's staff are able to connect with the kids through play, helping them complete the clinical test while doing something enjoyable.





Custom Made Easy

Custom-cut insets of Amtico LVT appear throughout the facility to help children engage in the experience and feel positive about their visit. According to Elizabeth, she was surprised by how easy it was to get exactly the design she wanted: “I found these animal images online, printed them out, wrote in what color flooring I wanted them in, and sent it over. The next thing I know, I have proofs of all these animals in the colors and sizes.... It was a very simple process.”

Cleanable, Durable Spaces

The use of insets in the floor was more than a unique design solution: insets are much more cleanable and durable than decals. “You can use decals on the floor,” Elizabeth explained, “but you think of the longevity of it—it doesn’t last, especially with kids. After a while it gets gunk around it and then it looks dirty. With this application, everything is inset in the floor, so we just scrub it, mop it and it looks brand new.”

In healthcare spaces, cleanliness and durability go hand-in-hand—and this makes Mannington Commercial flooring stand out. Elizabeth noted, “Making these spaces easy to maintain for the long term is always another goal of mine—which is also why I love Mannington Commercial products, because they hold up really well. And when there’s kids around, we all know it needs to hold up really well.”

Instead of creating a complicated installation, Elizabeth explained that the use of the pre-cut insets also made the installation simple: “It was actually very quick, because they were just popping them down, following the floorplan.”

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Flexibility & Functionality

Elizabeth knew she could rely on Mannington Commercial to help execute her vision. With a partnership spanning eight years, she had used Amtico in multiple St. Luke's facilities: "We use Amtico on a lot of our projects, and the variety and the ease that we can design with, changing the look of spaces with just different-sized planks and insets—it's actually amazing."

Elizabeth chose a wide-plank Amtico Signature Collection Wood style for most of the Pediatric Specialty Center, creating a welcoming feeling of home. In the physical therapy space, rubber tile from the Color Anchor Collection adds comfort underfoot and superior acoustical properties for physical activities, while delivering the undersea design of Elizabeth's concept: "We proposed rubber to St. Luke's, and they loved it. The staff are so happy with it, and the kids are happy with it. It's a beautiful space, and it tied in really well with the LVT next to it."

Coordinating colors across products was simple, right down to the Burkebase wall base. "Using the LVT, Color Anchor rubber flooring, and the rubber wall base, I was able to coordinate the entire space," Elizabeth explained, "and as a designer, that is amazing—to not have to look at a ton of custom-color options and be able to have everything look consistent. It really makes it easy to bring your concept home, especially when you're using color."

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The Partnership

A Foundation of Trust

"Every space in this building has a meaning and a purpose," Elizabeth shared. "There's a lot of detail that went into it. We had a lot of vendors involved, and the flooring was by far the easiest process in this project. With the amount of detail that went into it, and the wow factor that it created, the ease of it was phenomenal. I would recommend custom Amtico to anyone."

A sense of trust underlies Elizabeth's work with Mannington Commercial, streamlining even the most elaborate designs: "Over the years, I've developed a relationship with Mannington Commercial. I trust the Mannington Commercial team. We always get the job done ... and we always get an amazing product at the end, for our patients and our staff."

Benefits of a Domestic Manufacturer

Working with Mannington Commercial gave Elizabeth not only design support but also logistical support to help make the project happen on time and in budget. "Mannington Commercial is in Georgia. We were able to get materials in time, so we can open on time. With shipping and lead times, it's saved us a lot on this project and other projects as well."

Because the flooring is being manufactured domestically, last-minute changes are easier to accommodate. Elizabeth explained the difference that this can mean for a facility and their patients: "Working with Mannington Commercial on this project really afforded us to shift and change as we needed to. We added more space the eleventh hour of this project, and they were able to make that happen for us, which is important because now we can service children that would have been delayed."

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Realizing a Dream

As a mom to three kids, the new pediatric facility was not simply another project for Elizabeth. "This was a dream for me personally," she shared. "Working with all of our vendors, Mannington Commercial at the top of our list, they took this vision I had and made it this beautiful reality."

For Elizabeth, the St. Luke's Pediatric Specialty Center is one of the ways she uses patient-centered design to make a difference in the lives of people in her community—giving kids and parents an environment of care that supports their emotional needs as much as their physical needs: "I was a very young mom, and I grew up in this area. To be able to give back to the community, to help other young moms, and to make something so special is truly the most meaningful thing. This is pretty amazing in my book."

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