



## UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

PERFORMANCE MEETS DESIGN,  
WITH MANNINGTON'S SPATIAL PROGRESSIONS

The Education Commons, located beneath the bleachers of Penn's historic football stadium, transforms an underutilized space into a lively library facility. Conceived as a new student destination to encourage collaborative learning, the 300-foot long space is divided into a series of wired flexible zones, where students can shift between study and social networking.

The project's main performance requirement was sound insulation against the bleachers and other surrounding athletic facilities, so the design team came up with "the Cloud," a suspended ceiling lined with an acoustical finish, a dynamic architectural feature that attracts attention from the street and adjacent Shoemaker Green.

With such prominent design elements, as well as an overall scheme that fosters continuity with the outdoor space through majestic, brick-arched windows, the designers needed complementary flooring. JSA researched products and found that Mannington's Sylvan Structures Collection worked well with the concept. An abstract pattern that harmonized with the design aesthetics, Spatial Progressions resembles an organic foliage pattern that resonates with the landscape, while providing the necessary durability for a high-traffic student area.

University of Pennsylvania, Education Commons  
Design: Joel Sanders Architect, New York, NY  
Product: Sylvan — Spatial Progressions: Aerie and Pastoral