

Jon Otis Launches Object Agency

When the business of design intersects with the concept of design as a cultural imperative, it is usually not an accident. For **Jon Otis** this is comfortable territory. Trained early in his career at **Sottsass Associati** in Milan, Mr. Otis has adopted the Italian model of a multidisciplinary practice.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3...



Revolutionize Your Flooring installation

Anyone who has been involved with flooring material installation on a concrete slab has dealt with frustrations that involve costly and seemingly irreconcilable differences between slab moisture retention and new adhesives' failures. Folks, this is about to change.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 7...



IIDA-NY LESTER DUNDES INTERIOR DESIGN Awards

The **IIDA New York Chapter** held its seventh annual Awards event for the winners of the **IIDA NY Lester Interior Design Competition** in the **Haworth** New York showroom, an outstanding visual space whose qualities as a somber former bank and other mundane uses were transformed by **Eva Maddox** and **Eileen Jones** of Perkins + Will/Eva Maddox Branded Environments.

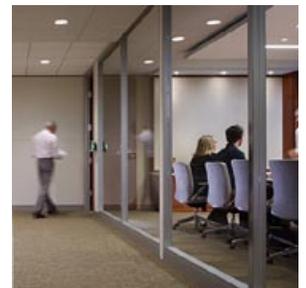
FULL STORY ON PAGE 10...



Project Focus: Mesirow Financial

In 2005, Mesirow Financial began the planning process with **IA Interior Architects** for the development of a new corporate headquarters. Its project team determined that use of a **KI** moveable wall presented the most favorable long-term economic and operational benefits when compared to a traditional drywall solution.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 16...



Hum! Creativity + Innovation = Success

Creativity is a person's ability to dream up new ideas and thoughts, and the way in which they view the world and make connections between random events and items. Innovation takes these ideas and molds them into practical products, services, and processes.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 19...

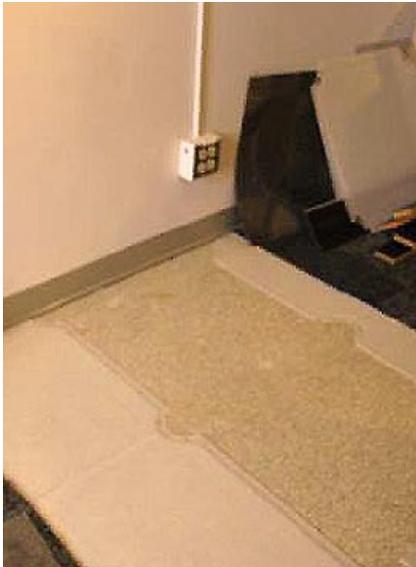


CITED:
"THE POINT OF CITIES
IS MULTIPLICITY OF
CHOICE."
— JANE JACOBS

Revolutionize your flooring installation...for now.

by Kathleen Vick, ASID

Anyone who has recently been involved with flooring material installation on a concrete slab has most likely dealt with frustrations that involve costly and seemingly irreconcilable differences between slab moisture reten-



1. EXISTING FLOOR



2. MOVE HOOK PLATE INTO PLACE

tion and new adhesives' failures. Folks, this is about to change; on the horizon is the biggest innovation in flooring finish installation perhaps since carpet tiles.

TacFast Systems International (www.tacfast.com) in concert with **Beaulieu Carpets** (www.beaulieugroup.com) have joined forces to debut **PURE Contract Carpets** www.purecontractcarpets.com this year. So what's the big deal? The folks at TacFast have managed to create an omni-applicable (carpet and tile and resilient) system for flooring installation that: eliminates moisture & adhesive issues, substantially reduces the need for most surface preparation and diminishes the volume & weight of most



3. INSTALL AND LOCK OLACE CONNECTOR DISK



4. USE SLIP-SHEET TO MOVE CARPET INTO PLACE

flooring materials.

So what is this stuff? Fundamentally it's a two part system: "Part A" is an injection molded 24" x 24" polypropylene hook plate. Each plate is joined with its neighbor (at all 4 corners) on site by a 6" diameter "lock disc". "Part B" is a flexible, fabric-type material with hook & loop engagements factory applied directly to the back of the floor finish. When Part A and Part B are pressed together, *voila*: a mechanical bond that holds the flooring in place! Yet, this bond is releasable; separation is effortless simply by lifting the floor finish material. The process can be repeated many times making maintenance a breeze.

When the installation of this polypropylene layer is completed the plates form an integrated, moisture impervious seal that floats atop the slab. Because the plates are substantive (.09" thick), the flexible, continuous "membrane" performs an additional service: bridging most minor concrete surface imperfections. Thus it greatly diminishes the need for grinding, filling and other remedial efforts. This is also useful when applying new flooring directly over an existing one.

Using this system, **Beaulieu** is able to manufacture modular carpet tiles that are 70% *lighter than any other carpet tile on the market* because their carpet tiles get their stability from the LocPlate substrate and do not require any secondary backing. (A fine example of the "first r" in "reduce, reuse and recycle" equation. Put *that* in your LEED analysis!)

Although yet to be readily available in the US, European manufacturers are using a similar principle for ceramic/porcelain tile and are able to reduce the thickness and weight of the tiles by a minimum of 50%. We have yet to hear about resilient flooring but will keep our ears open. ■



5. VOILA!