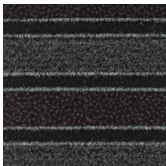




Matching Historical Character with Modern Practicality

Legacy



Cool Gray

Since 1983, historic Liberty Hall has served as the home of the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, a small, 279-seat theatre located in Lowell, Massachusetts. Completed in 1922, the theatre maintains much of its character from years past, a trait that was of the utmost importance during renovations and upgrades done in 2012.

One of the most important aspects to the new theatre design was the box office. Previously in the basement of the theatre and handicap inaccessible, the box office was to be moved up to the main level into the most logical place, the front entryway. The front vestibule would now need to do double duty, serving as both vestibule and box office, while effectively withstanding the mud, sand and snow prevalent during the New England winter and spring months, the theatre's busiest seasons.

Frequently working with Matter Surfaces, the Wilson Butler Architects (WBA) team reviewed the Matter

Surfaces matting line for an entrance product that could withstand heavy foot traffic and harmonize with the antique-meets-present-day design approach. Designer Rebecca Emmanuel of WBA selected Legacy matting in contrasting Black and Gray to meet the project demands and to set the contemporary tone at the entrance. Legacy was installed like a wall-to-wall carpet to fill the entire vestibule space, minimizing edges and transitions to simplify maintenance, maintain overall durability and keep the space simplistic with a touch of bold.

"I was pleasantly surprised by how good the walk-off grid really looked in the space," stated Emmanuel. "Not only was it supporting a function and was pleasant looking as we had hoped and expected, it really made a bold design statement. The cool gray and black with the strong horizontal stripe contrasted well against the warm wood tones and historic wood trim within the space."