

PUBLIC SPACE

Palais des Congrès
Montréal, Quebec



Vibrant and Modern Custom Carpet Stands up to Traffic

- Entering the Palais des Congrès is like diving into a kaleidoscope. The avant garde architecture and welcoming interior design aptly articulate Montréal's contemporary character and graciousness. During a recent renovation, the project manager was challenged with selecting carpet that was artistic and vibrant enough to complement the design aesthetic, yet functional and durable enough to stand up to heavy traffic.

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CASE STUDY:

Palais des Congrès Montréal, Quebec



Selecting carpet that is stylish and durable enough to withstand the traffic and abuse of a convention center for more than 10 years is not an easy task. When it came time to replace the 7500 m² of carpet in the plenary and meeting rooms at the Palais des Congrès, project manager Gerard Michaud wanted a carpet tile with an artistic flair that was also durable enough to hold up to more than 650,000 foot traffics annually and the weight of forklifts used to set up exhibitions.

Additionally, the back to back meeting and event schedule at the Palais leaves little time for carpet cleaning or repair. Mr. Michaud knew the flooring he specified would also have to be stain resistant, so he began searching for a carpet that could deliver the outstanding performance he expected.

To assist with the specification decision, Mr. Michaud conducted in-house performance tests on several carpet styles under consideration. "Our first challenge was to find a carpet tile that would be durable enough to resist the crushing and matting that could result from material-laden forklifts used to set up exhibitions," said Mr. Michaud. "We evaluated how well the carpet performed under the weight of

forklifts passing and turning on the tiles with a sample load of materials." "We also needed carpet that could be easily cleaned, so we conducted staining and cleanability tests. We selected some of the toughest stains, such as red wine and mustard, poured them on the carpet and tested how easily the stains would clean. Only the carpets which passed these tests were considered," said Mr. Michaud.

The architectural firm working with Mr. Michaud also recommended styles made of Antron® carpet fibre and based on his performance testing, Michaud agreed. "The carpet styles constructed of Antron® nylon performed very well in our tests," said Mr. Michaud. "We had a positive experience with Antron® nylon in the past because previous installations met our performance expectations for more than 10 years."

Once the performance specifications were outlined, Mr. Michaud turned to finding a carpet style that would complement the interior design. "From a design standpoint, we were looking for a distinctive carpet style that would be cozy and warm. Because we were unable to find a running line style that fit our needs, we decided to work with Tandus to create a custom design.

The geometric pattern has black, grey and red lines, which matches other materials already in the space, and is similar in aesthetic to the granite tiles installed on the lower level of the Palais. The carpet complements the space nicely."

"We are very pleased with the carpet selection and how it is performing. Our next carpet renovation will be easier now that we know Antron® carpet fibre will meet our performance requirements."

– Mr. Gerard Michaud, project manager

The custom carpet tiles were installed in the plenary room, the panoramic room and breakout rooms. "Carpet is an essential part of the convention center space because it softens echos and allows for better sound in the meeting spaces," said Mr. Michaud.

Environmental considerations also were an important part of the decision-making process. Mr. Michaud wanted a carpet fibre that was recyclable.

"We have obtained the Building Owner Management Association's (BOMA) BEST Level 1 certification, a new program for commercial real estate in Canadian buildings that recognizes and certifies those properties being managed with a commitment to environmental responsibility," said Mr. Michaud.

→ *Antron® carpet fibres with hollow filaments minimize soil accumulation and make dirt harder to see. The hollow filaments refract and diffuse light and hide the dirt while the specially designed surfaces readily release the dirt, making cleaning easier.*

To learn more, contact your local Antron® division or visit antron.eu.

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