



Galt House Hotel

Bold Floor Covering for a Bold Space

HOSPITALITY

Bold thinking has always been a part of the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. After all, it was in the first Galt House in 1864 that Union generals Ulysses S. Grant and William Sherman devised their audacious military strategy to capture Atlanta.

More than 120 years later, in 1985, the Galt House installed one of the largest geothermal heating and air conditioning systems in the world in its Suite Tower. So when the Galt House was considering a recent renovation of its conservatory, it was no surprise that one of the South's premier convention hotels would approach the project with boldness in design and durability in mind.

The Galt House needed a distinctive product that would make a design statement while it stood up to heavy traffic—and the project had to be completed in a quick time frame (in time for the hotel's Kentucky Derby guests).

"Owner Mary Mosely wanted something that would really give a great impression when guests walked into the space," said Kenny Franklin, director of engineering at Galt House. "The exterior of the conservatory with its prismatic glass looked fabulous, but the interior didn't pop. The old carpet had subdued colors and looked worn from the day it was installed. We wanted something with a wow, something new and modern."

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Project
Galt House Atrium
Hotel Renovation

Location
Louisville, Kentucky

Website
www.galthouse.com

Materials
Durkan's Lakir Collection
1,406 square yards of carpet

Project Lead
Chris McDonough, The Gettys Group,
Chicago, Illinois



BOLD FLOOR COVERING FOR A BOLD SPACES

The hotel found “wow” in broadloom carpet from Durkan’s Lakir Collection.

The conservatory is the place to meet at the Galt House. The massive space is impressive with a curved ceiling; a wall of windows looking out over Louisville and the scenic Ohio River; bird cages full of live birds; Al J’s, a restaurant named after former owner Al J. Schneider and which has a 30-foot aquarium bar; and a deli called Thelma’s, in honor of Thelma Schneider, Al’s wife.

Refreshing the conservatory was not a small assignment. It took 1,406 square yards of carpet with a 30-foot pattern repeat. Architects and designers from The Gettys Group, an award-winning global hospitality design firm specializing in interior design, consulting, branding and procurement in Chicago, brought in a complete furniture package, new color palette and new floor covering. They custom-colored and scaled Lakir to create a bold energy in this stunning space.

“The conservatory is the most popular, most seen and most traversed space in Galt House, so we wanted to make a splash there immediately,” said Chris McDonough, senior design director, The Gettys Group. “The new carpet has a lot of depth and movement. Lakir gave us the quality look we wanted in the time frame we needed.”

The capabilities of Durkan’s Definity manufacturing technology was a deciding factor in the use of Lakir in the Galt House. McDonough said, “Durkan offered state-of-the-art technology and a cutting-edge product, and we at Gettys like to thoughtfully use these kinds of new products. Also, the Definity technology helped us meet our deadlines.”

Definity, which replicates the durability and look of Axminster as it has never

been done before, produces Lakir’s textural effects and stunning large-scale patterns more economically than Axminster and in less manufacturing time. In luxurious Lakir, this precision sculpted effect is seen in a simplicity of lines bridged with plateaus of plush feathered pile and crowned with dense scalloped ribbing.

When it comes to durability and sustainability, Lakir stands up to the test front and back. It is made with Colorstrand fiber, an excellent choice for the Galt House’s bright conservatory because Colorstrand features unsurpassed colorfastness to light, atmospheric contaminants and harsh cleaning agents.

Lakir also is backed by WeldLok, which is ideal for high-performance environments that require excellent tuft retention properties. The Lakir Collection also is red list free; it contains no materials designated harmful to living creatures. With the new look in the conservatory and Durkan’s Lakir Collection, Galt House Hotel is on pace to once again define boldness—in hospitality, style and durability. ■

