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International Christian University

A timeless restoration thanks to Altro Dolce Tile

Tokyo, Japan



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International Christian University, located in Mitaka, Tokyo, was established in 1953 as Japan's first liberal arts college. The "Diffendoofer Memorial Hall East Wing" has been cherished by professors and students alike, serving as the heart of campus life.

After more than 60 years since its completion, the building faced possible demolition. However, following extensive discussions, it was decided to preserve the building. Interior and exterior renovation work was planned, and the building was reborn in the fall of 2021.

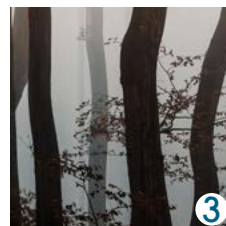
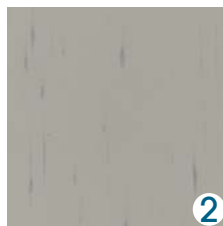
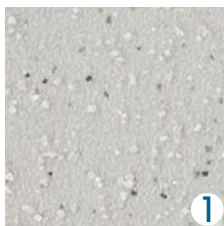
The renovation project's goal was to restore the original appearance of the building while enhancing user convenience. This led to the selection of Altro Dolce Tile for the lounge, rooms, and corridors, preserving the floor's original charm.

Before World War II, flooring material in Japan primarily consisted of stone, wood, and ceramic tiles. It wasn't until 1955 when the first resin tile was introduced, marking a significant advancement as it was thinner, lighter, and easier to install compared to traditional materials. Altro Dolce Tile was specified for the campus to pioneer a space that embodied the dawn of modern architecture in Japan. Altro Dolce Tile combines the natural beauty of stone with the durability and resilience of enhanced vinyl.

W.M. Vories & Company Architects Ichiryusha was the firm in charge of the renovation. According to them, "The selection of vinyl floor tiles for the flooring was a carefully considered decision. During the renovation survey, we observed repaired traces and a mixture of dull-colored flooring, making it difficult to imagine the original condition when it was newly constructed. However, as we observed the balance with the walls and ceiling during the renovation process, we began to envision the space as it was intended 60 years ago."

With Altro Dolce Tile installed, International Christian University successfully captured a modern ambiance while maintaining the building's historical legacy, creating a foundation for students to learn and flourish.

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