



## CASE STUDY | EDUCATION

**Project:**

East Baton Rouge Career and Technology Education Center

**Location:**

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Designer / Architect:**

Domain Architecture

**Contractor:**

Lincoln Builders,  
Cornerstone Commercial Flooring

**Armstrong Flooring:**

Standard Excelon® Imperial® Texture

**Featured skus:**

51861, 51904, 57512, 57516, 57509, 57510



## *East Baton Rouge Career and Technology Education Center*

# Flexible Design Supports Contemporary Learning

### *Colorful VCT design guides students and faculty, inspires new school colors.*

The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board knew it needed a vocational school to serve the area's 13 high schools. How it would operate, and its curriculum focus, were yet to be decided, and it left Domain Architecture with a responsibility to design a learning space focused on flexibility.

Located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, East Baton Rouge (EBR) Career and Technology Education Center (CTEC) is a 35,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art building outfitted to teach high school students the latest technology, as well as vocational trades like electrical and carpentry. The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board called on Domain Architecture, also based in Baton Rouge, to design the first-of-its-kind education building for the school system.

Led by Director of Architecture Kate Balfour McLean and Designer Austin Duhon, Domain Architecture conceptualized a building that allowed for maximum flexibility while implementing wayfinding elements.

"The whole school is meant to be a teaching tool, and that's tied into details as unique as the color palette," Duhon said. "The main design is inspired by motherboards and computer chips, and the

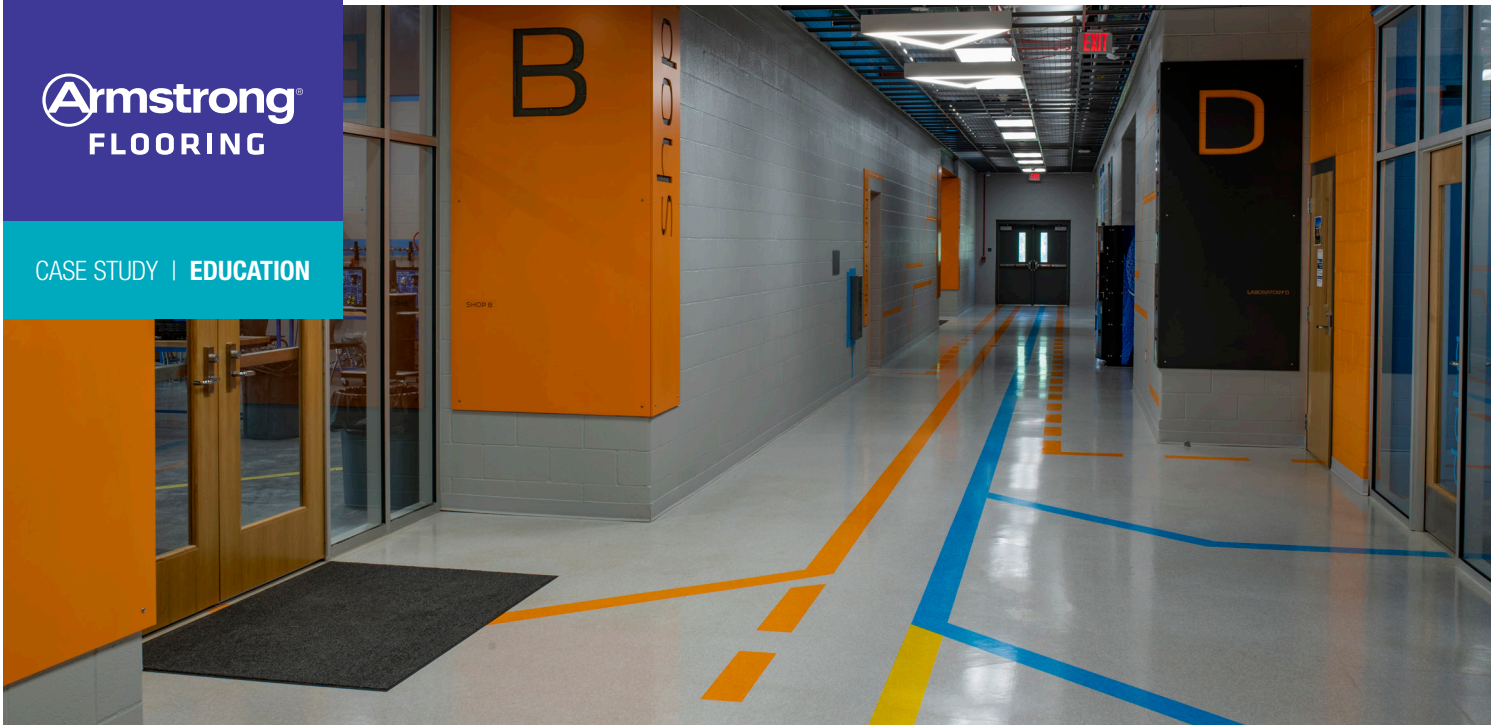
lobby serves as the central hub with circuits sprawling from there. We definitely wanted to bring technology into it."

**Design Inspired by Color**

Open to juniors and seniors within the 13-school parish, EBR CTEC allows students to graduate with industry certifications in addition to their high school diploma. Some will even have coursework completed that transfers to the nearby community college.

Design flexibility was imperative due to the evolving curriculum. The school aims to be flexible based on ongoing workforce needs, so rooms were outfitted with various power and utility requirements. This would allow any room to support training needs, whether it be for electricians or carpenters, plumbing or ceramics. Labs were set up with multiple utilities, three kinds of power, and the same plumbing capabilities.

To visually support and brand the school's purpose, as well as guide students and faculty to these various areas of the building, colorful wayfinding was implemented. Duhon envisioned a vibrant circuit board and settled on Armstrong Flooring **Standard Excelon Imperial Texture** VCT flooring to bring the vision to life.



“Color was a big aspect for the parish,” Duhon said. “Armstrong Flooring’s palette of colors is unmatched, and these colors matched perfectly with what we were envisioning when we developed the color palette for this project. It was the only option in our opinion.”

Beginning in the lobby with the welcome center as the hub, a variety of colors begin to sprawl. Lemon Lick guides students and faculty to classrooms, while Screamin’ Pumpkin leads to laboratory and shop areas. Restrooms and shower spaces are found by following Bikini Blue, and Kickin’ Kiwi leads the way to administration offices, as well as the dining area.

“The colors are just as vibrant and beautiful as the names allude to,” Balfour McLean said. “It was hard to find these colors in other VCT flooring. They really stand out, so much so that it later served as the inspiration for the school’s official colors, which included green and blue from the flooring color palette.”

#### Exceptional Performance on a Budget

As is the case with so many education projects, Design Architecture was tasked with finding the balance between performance, beauty, and budget practicality. Beyond the vibrant color palette, this was another primary reason Armstrong Flooring suited the project’s needs.

“Armstrong Flooring is an industry standard, especially when it comes to VCT,” Duhon said. “We know the product works and the end user will get exactly what’s advertised. It gave us the confidence to design a beautiful space, keep it in budget, and trust that the product was going to deliver what we promised to the parish.”

When it came to the installation process, Domain Architecture knew its designs would need to be assembled without compromising the budget or a creative vision. To meet this balance, flooring was hand cut, forgoing the more common water-jet method.

***“It was a fun process to create a unique wayfinding design, but to also see it installed,” Balfour McLean said. “Cutting circles and doing more than just a traditional checkerboard was a great use of VCT, and its success came down to using a quality product. This will certainly be an impactful space on this community for years to come.”***