The new office for Black & Veatch in Cary, North Carolina is more than just 40,000 square feet of traditional office space in a new building with new carpet. It represents a major shift from a traditional office model based on past corporate standards into an unveiling of a new paradigm of how to successfully implement design and function in an office space.

The ultimate design goal was to transition employees from the traditional larger workstations with high panels into more collaborative workstations to encourage interaction, increase productivity and leverage cost per square foot savings.

A Carpet Design That Strengthens The Brand, Meets Corporate Initiatives
The Design Strategy

The interior design for the new office needed to be sustainable, timeless and support an open office concept while integrating consistent materials that strengthen the Black & Veatch corporate brand identity regardless of the region.

To achieve the design goals, Ralph DeGruttola and Meghann Hoffman, directors of corporate real estate for Black & Veatch, implemented the Herman Miller Living Office concept into the design. This concept focused on creating an office environment that enhances employee experience and increases productivity.

The acoustical benefits of carpet would play a key role in the design strategy and the living office concept. Hoffman tells us “As we start modernizing our offices and move to open offices and collaborative spaces, achieving solid acoustical balance is really important. A lot of the surfaces in the modern office are glass and metal, and the carpet is the one piece of the office that can absorb noise. Additionally, carpet provides comfort under foot for those who want to work and stand for a portion of the day.” Carpet helps with creating an office environment that is comfortable, productive and progressive.

In addition to acoustics, attracting top talent and increasing productivity are important considerations. “There’s a war for talent in our industry and we’ve noticed a change in what motivates millennials at work. Instead of being motivated by money, they are seeking a unique workplace experience that is energetic and exciting,” explained DeGruttola. “In order to attract and keep talent, we’ve created a work environment that fosters wellbeing, community and motivates employees to come to the office. All of the design details matter, even down to the carpet selection, which needs to be attractive and welcoming to new and future employees.”

Also important was making a sustainable choice for flooring, one that would not have to be replaced prematurely, saving resources, time and money. “Whenever we tackle a project, we have numbers that we need to hit. But I’m of the opinion that I think you can invest in quality,” said DeGruttola. “Because of our long history specifying Antron® carpet styles, we know the new carpet will perform as expected and last, eliminating any concern of premature replacement,” said DeGruttola. “I can go out 25 years and show you that Antron® is the better solution from a cost perspective. This results in an intangible reward for a facility manager, a great peace of mind with our selection.”

The Performance Specification

- **Acoustics**: Absorbs sound in an office environment with open spaces and help increase productivity
- **Aesthetics**: Interested in a timeless patterned carpet that is attractive and welcoming
- **Sustainability**: Long term value with an expectation for carpet to last more than ten years to avoid premature replacement and dumping in a landfill
- **Durability**: Carpet manufactured with type 6,6 carpet fiber
- **Texture Retention**: Stand up to heavy foot traffic and crush resistance

The Specification Solution

Antron® carpet fiber is the only carpet fiber Black & Veatch considers for its corporate offices. In order to select materials that provide value and will last, Hoffman stated “It was really important for us to use Antron fiber because we know that in 5 to 10 years, it will look the same as it did the day we put it in.”

Sharing experience of a past carpet failure, DeGruttola said “We’ve decided to spend money on the front end to ensure the carpet will see us through the term of the lease. If we had to replace carpet in five years, it would be an expensive undertaking and huge disruption to our offices.”

The team’s final carpet selection was Bentley Mills Discord with Antron® Lumena™, a fiber system engineered with long-lasting protection against the top performance attributes of stain, soil and texture. Discord met the client’s expectations for aesthetics because the pattern is layered and utilizes glimmer yarn which adds richness and depth to the floor.

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“Antron® branded nylon performs like nothing I’ve ever seen.”

~ Ralph DeGruttola
Black & Veatch
It takes great teamwork to create commercial interior solutions that are in it for the long run.

About Antron® Fibers
We’re the Antron® brand, and we hold ourselves to a high standard of performance that prioritizes people-first. This means you can expect more from your carpet fiber. It all started with our incredible commercial carpet fiber but transformed into a passion for improving away-from-home interiors where people work, learn, heal, and play. It’s about improving the physical and emotional comfort that increases confidence and enhances wellbeing. We believe it’s what’s inside that really matters. So, we encourage you to walk all over us, because we’ve been making away-from-home spaces brighter, stronger, and easier to clean since 1960. Learn more at antron.net.

About Bentley Mills
For more than 40 years, Bentley Mills, Inc. has defined design, color, quality, and customer service in the commercial carpet industry. Our California-based brand manufactures and markets award-winning broadloom, carpet tile, and area rug products for interiors across the globe. With luxury, timelessness and crafted quality at the forefront of our product design, Bentley is consistently recognized for leadership in design, performance, and customer service to the architecture and interior design community. And as California’s only commercial carpeting company, we’re committed to sustainable commerce and social responsibility. We continue to evolve our product lines to mirror our eco-conscious philosophy and achieve top industry certifications, including Cradle to Cradle and NSF® 140. Learn more at bentleymills.com