



Wicanders Brings Warmth & Welcome to Retirement Community

When the Brothers of the Sacred Heart in Pascoag, Rhode Island began to remodel their residents' rooms within their retirement community, they knew *warmth*, *health*, and *tranquility* were key components to the atmosphere they sought to create. Alfred Oakes of Ariss Design, who headed the remodeling project, automatically eliminated the usual flooring choices: wood, carpet, concrete, and tile, for being too cold, porous, or harsh. The original building was bleak and sterile, with cool tones and concrete flooring- not an inviting environment to live and work, especially for the center's elderly Brothers and caring medical personnel. The Brothers of the Sacred Heart is made up of a community of men who have dedicated their lives to serving others all over the world, through prayer and action.



Oakes chose to introduce the “warmth and vibrancy of **Wicanders**” to the residency areas within the building. He opted for Series 1000 in color shade *Harmony* to light a pathway of silence along the floor, while Ruby planks line the center's walls. The quality of the flooring ensures lasting beauty for years to come and was an obvious choice to create the peaceful air the Brothers were looking for. Oakes states that, “Not only is **Wicanders Cork Oak** warm and inviting, but its health benefits are perfect for the needs of the elderly Brothers living here.”



The health and safety of the Brothers was the number one priority when considering just how to remodel the previously dowdy residence halls. Choosing **Wicanders** cork oak flooring can have a real impact on reducing the number of hip fractures suffered by the elderly.

A study from Warwick's Center for Primary Healthcare Studies at the University of Edinburgh, published in the journal *Age & Ageing*, reveals results of a two-year study. Professor Lamb, one of the reporting authors from the study, said, “A fall for the elderly can have serious consequences and

there is a need to help cushion floors as much as possible.” She added, “The possible implications of our findings are considerable. In 1990, there were an estimated 1.7 million hip fractures worldwide and this figure is expected to rise to 6.3 million by 2050. In designing safer environments for older people, the type of floor should be chosen to minimize the risk of fracture. This may result in a major reduction in fractures in the elderly.”

The Brothers needed a floor that was not only cushioned, but also easy to maneuver on with wheelchairs and walkers, fire retardant, and free from allergens and hidden germs. To add to the list of dilemmas, before remodeling the building had an asbestos problem. All of these issues were instantly addressed by choosing **Wicanders**: cork oak is naturally anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, fire retardant, and hypoallergenic. Not only is the natural material itself healthful, but **Wicanders** has created CorkLoc®, a glue-less system which tightly seals the floor, protecting against dust and dirt while creating a seamless look and feel.

Because **Wicanders** is giving underfoot, anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, fire retardant, and hypoallergenic, unlike other materials, **Wicanders Cork Oak** surfaces *actively contribute* to the health and wellbeing of the building’s residents! These rare features are the top reasons why **Wicanders** is being chosen to cover healthcare facilities and children’s areas across the nation.

Wicanders has another hidden benefit: silence. Independent tests show that cork oak floors achieve the best results in terms of step sound and impact sound compared to a range of wood and laminate floors marketed as being sound absorbent. **Wicanders** reduces step sound effects by up to 10 decibels more than other conventional floor covering. In impact sound reduction, (the noise downstairs neighbors hear) the structural composition of natural cork oak can reduce noise from up to 20 to 24 decibels. It is for this reason **Wicanders** flooring is an excellent choice for healthcare facilities, or for use in apartment buildings, town homes, condominiums, and anywhere silence and privacy are valued.



While **Wicanders** flooring is often used to diminish the echo effect in large corridors and hallways, the designers at Ariss Design chose a unique application: they used it on the walls as well. The rich Ruby shade plays off the amber hue of the floors and helps to virtually eliminate noise along the center’s long hallways leading to the Brother’s bedrooms. The combination of deep shades and intricate patterns lends an air of elegance and natural beauty to the community.

Although the building is not LEED certified, Wicanders does contribute to LEED points. The rating system takes into account aspects of building such as leadership in sustainability, recyclability, energy conservation, material quality, efficiency, and innovation. **Wicanders Cork Oak** contributes points to the following LEED sections: 1) Materials & Resources, 2) Indoor Environmental Quality, and 3) Innovation & Design Process.

*Wicanders Cork Oak flooring is a product of Amorim Revestimentos, a company based in Portugal. Amorim has been the environmentally conscious world leader in the Cork industry for over 130 years. Amorim's North American headquarters is located in Hanover, Maryland. For more information about **Wicanders Cork Oak** flooring, please contact Amorim Flooring at 410.553.6062 or visit **Wicanders** website: www.wicanders.com/us.*

