Harbour Town Lighthouse

Client: Harbour Town Lighthouse
Location: Hilton Head Island, SC
Product: LLP92 Country Oak
Sector: Leisure
Area: Ground floor of lighthouse
Size: 325 ft²
Karndean Designflooring’s innovative LooseLay range is featured in an installation at the iconic Harbour Town Lighthouse in Hilton Head Island, SC.

Completed in 1970, the renowned candy cane-striped lighthouse marks the entrance to the Harbour Town yacht basin. As part of a larger renovation, the ground floor of the lighthouse was redesigned to create a maritime-styled shop that would reflect the design of traditional coastal book shops, said Tom Crews, president of Tom Crews Architects, the firm involved with the project. The cool gray tones and open feel of LLP92 Country Oak’s wide planks were perfect for the space.

Although the footprint of the lighthouse is relatively modest in size at approximately 325 square feet, the floor is subjected to high levels of foot traffic due to tourists frequenting the site. “It’s a very busy lighthouse, tourists are constantly walking in and out,” said Ron Timblin, president of Abbey Floor Fashions in Hilton Head.

As visitors come and go through the lighthouse, small debris including seashells and sand is tracked in from exterior walkways. Because the high traffic levels and debris, it was essential that the floor be durable and easy to maintain, while matching the beautiful and traditional appearance of the lighthouse.

Working with Timblin and Abbey Floor Fashions to find the best product, Crews said Karndean’s luxury vinyl tile was ultimately chosen due to its price, easy maintenance, and beautiful aesthetics. Having used Karndean’s products in previous projects, he knew firsthand that it would be equal to the task. In particular, the quick and easy installation aspects of LooseLay, along with the ability to easily replace damaged planks, were instrumental in the decision to install a floating floor rather than a glue-down product.

Beautifying one of the island’s most symbolic landmarks has been a particularly gratifying experience for Crews. “I have had an opportunity to do a number of various projects at the Harbour Town Lighthouse over a 20 year period and always enjoy polishing the apple,” he said.