



## CASE STUDY

# Creating a Connected Space





## Architect

IA-Interior Architects, Philadelphia

## Designers

Madalyn Yovanoff, Katherine Stagner

## General Contractor

Skender

## Millwork

William Huber Cabinet Works

## Vision, Scope of Project

Corporate Client / 2 floors new construction

## Square Feet

92,000sf



## Objective/Design Inspiration

The project goal was to create flowing connections throughout the space, inspired by the Chicago River right outside the windows. Key to this objective was the centrally located connecting stair, which acts as a focal point and landmark, connecting the space corner-to-corner and floor-to-floor.

## Challenge

The original design intent was to build the stair platform and double-height wall out of the same natural wood as the paneling in reception area and use a matching laminate in the back-of-house pantry and copy areas. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, real wood was no longer an option for the feature stair.

## Solution

**Hi-Wear Laminate.** Luckily, the Nevamar® Straightaway Oak that had already been selected for the millwork, was also available in a Hi-Wear finish. Hi-Wear laminate is five times more resilient than standard grade laminate providing a high level of protection. This allowed the same pattern to be used not only on the feature wall, but on the platform and bottom stairs. The only solid wood that was needed was for the tread nosings. Hi-Wear laminate offered a practical, cost-effective option that combined durability and ease of maintenance without sacrificing aesthetics.

## Application/Fabrication

By prioritizing a matching pattern while considering fabrication ease, Panolam Hi-Wear laminate achieved both the design goal and a smooth installation process.

## Specification

**Nevamar® Straightaway Oak W00040**

**Millwork and Vertical Walls:** Standard HPL | Textured/Suede Finish (SD)

**Platform/Riser & Treads:** Hi-Wear Laminate