

InterfaceFLOR  
1503 Orchard Hill Road  
LaGrange, GA 30240

InterfaceFLOR®



All InterfaceFLOR products are available on the EA, NJPA and AEP contracts.

*GREEN SCHOOLS. GREEN CURRICULA. GREEN CHILD.*

### ***A Better World, One School at a Time***

Grass roots efforts are where good ideas about environmental stewardship can really take hold. That's why the Interface Environmental Education Grant program has contributed more than \$231,000 in grants impacting over 65,000 students and teachers around the world since 1998. Projects we've supported have ranged from recycling and water quality to gardening and environmental awareness.

**Your school can apply to receive a grant, too.** All applicants must be sponsored by an InterfaceFLOR associate. If you don't know one, give us a call at 1.877.696.TILE (8453) and we'll get acquainted.



**Mission Zero**  
our promise to eliminate  
any negative impact our company  
may have on the environment  
by the year 2020.



**LEARNING  
FROM  
NATURE**



As the world's largest manufacturer of glue-free, climate-neutral carpet tile for schools, colleges and universities, InterfaceFLOR can help your institution have a widespread and lasting impact. We have embraced biomimicry as a powerful ally in achieving our sustainability goals and are very excited to share this nature-inspired concept with you.

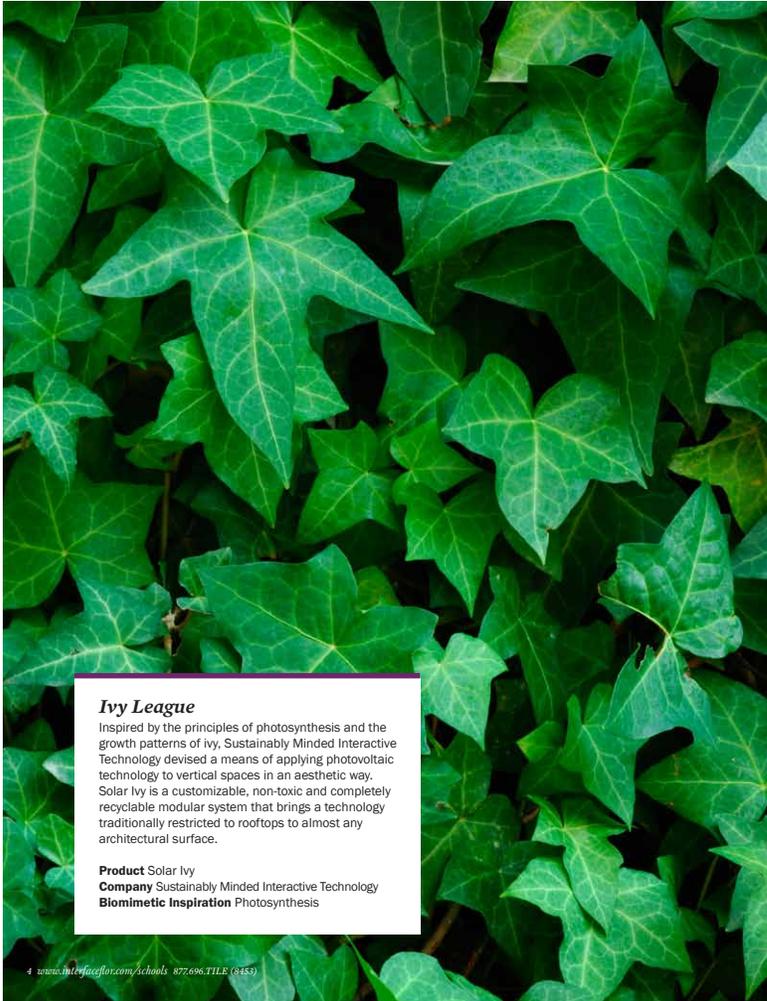
# THE GENIUS OF NATURE & SCIENCE OF BIOMIMICRY

The 19th-century naturalist Henry David Thoreau, known for both his poetic sensibility and his love of practical detail, said that nature has "a subtle magnetism which if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright." But what if we were to consciously seek out and emulate nature's genius? After 3.8 billions years of evolution, there are countless animals, plants and microbes that are thriving — nature's ultimate engineers. Taking inspiration from their model in order to sustainably solve human problems has become known as biomimicry.

Biomimicry is a new way of viewing nature, based not upon what we can extract but on what we can learn from such a vast expanse of accumulated wisdom. By observing successful natural organisms, we can apply their adaptations — their tried-and-true "R&D" — to our own creations. From the microscopic patterns of sharkskin, we have bacteria-repellent coatings for light switches and door handles. From the chemistry of rock-clinging seashells, we have formaldehyde-free

adhesives. From the random beauty of the forest floor, we have climate-neutral carpet tiles whose unique patterning allows for easy installation and replacement with less waste, while eliminating dye lot issues and the need for traditional glue adhesives. The result of innovations like these is clean, efficient technology that brings your supply chain and our society closer to a sustainable future.

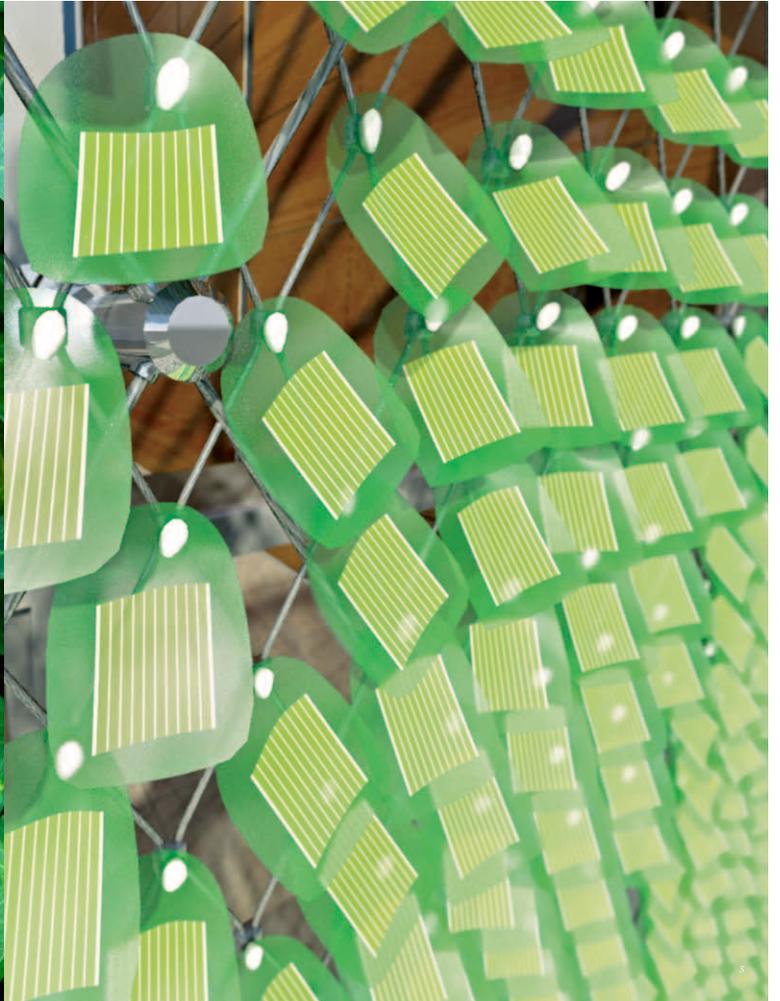
These are just a few of the hundreds of natural discoveries that are changing not only how educational facilities are built and renovated but what's taught within them. Like three-dimensional textbooks, school facilities present powerful teaching opportunities for nature's lessons through hands-on learning both within and outside the traditional syllabus. The design of educational facilities can be harnessed as a tool to shape values and curricula, promoting the concept of a sustainable lifestyle that will ultimately drive global change.

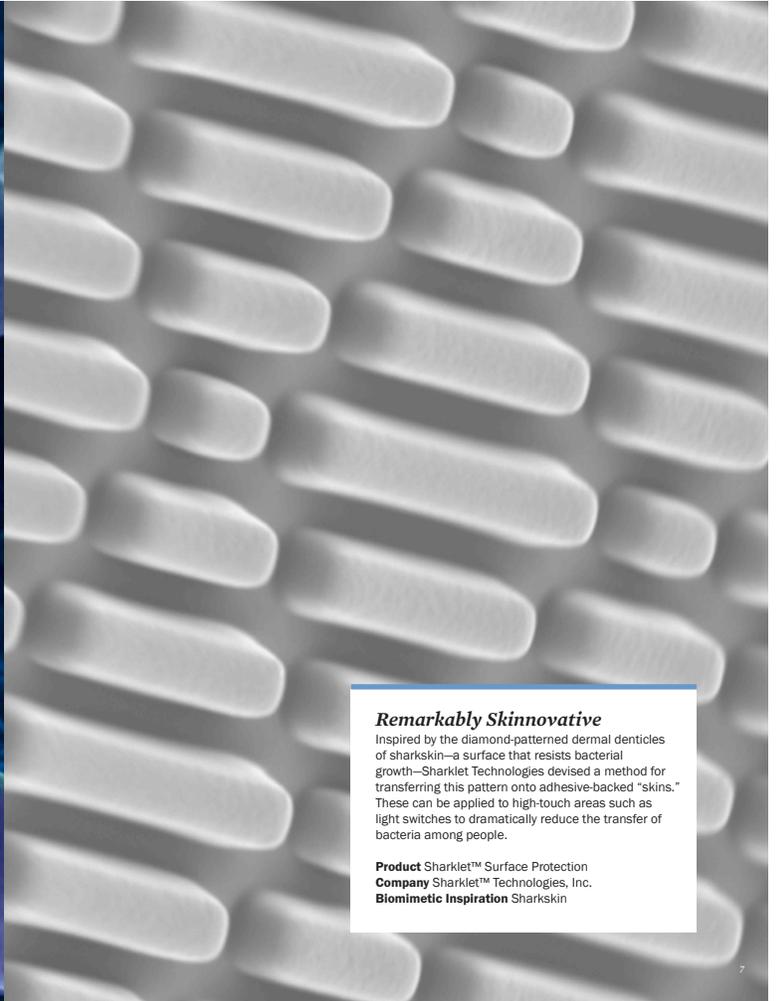
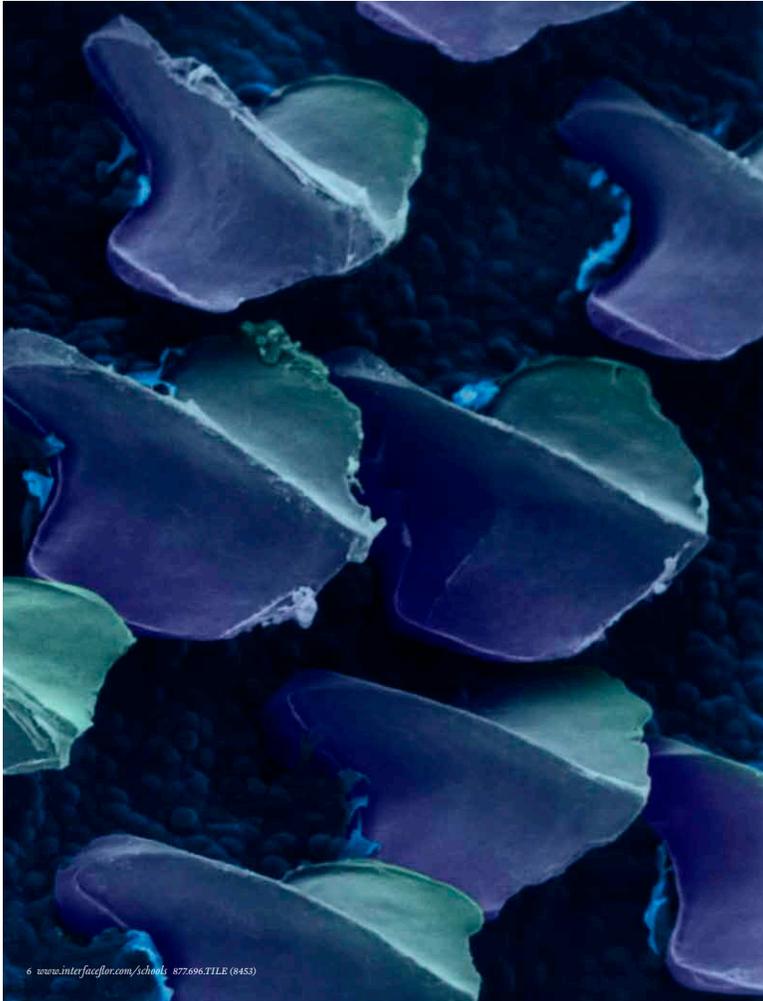


**Ivy League**

Inspired by the principles of photosynthesis and the growth patterns of ivy, Sustainably Minded Interactive Technology devised a means of applying photovoltaic technology to vertical spaces in an aesthetic way. Solar Ivy is a customizable, non-toxic and completely recyclable modular system that brings a technology traditionally restricted to rooftops to almost any architectural surface.

**Product** Solar Ivy  
**Company** Sustainably Minded Interactive Technology  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Photosynthesis





**Remarkably Skinnovative**

Inspired by the diamond-patterned dermal denticles of sharkskin—a surface that resists bacterial growth—Sharklet Technologies devised a method for transferring this pattern onto adhesive-backed “skins.” These can be applied to high-touch areas such as light switches to dramatically reduce the transfer of bacteria among people.

**Product** Sharklet™ Surface Protection  
**Company** Sharklet™ Technologies, Inc.  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Sharkskin



**Highly Articulate**

Inspired by the biomechanics of the pangolin, an animal with articulated protective scales, CYCLUS created their backpack from highly resilient recycled inner tubes with a multi-layered construction whose form and movement are created through layers or surfaces joined by membranes.

**Product** Pangolin Backpack  
**Company** CYCLUS  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Pangolin

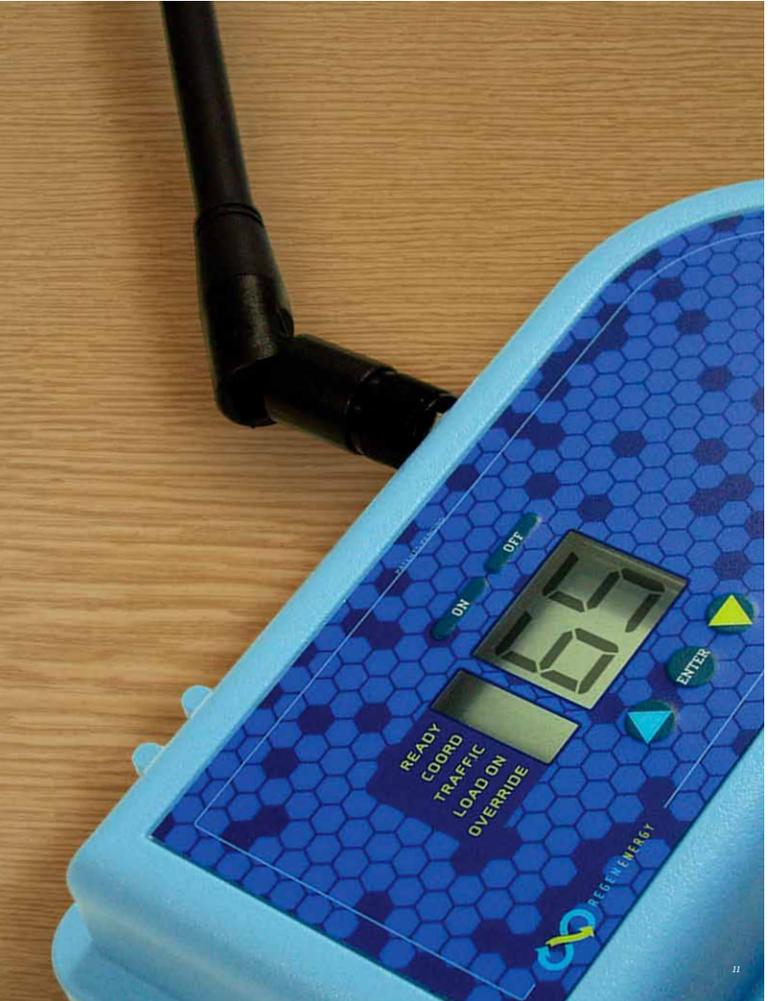


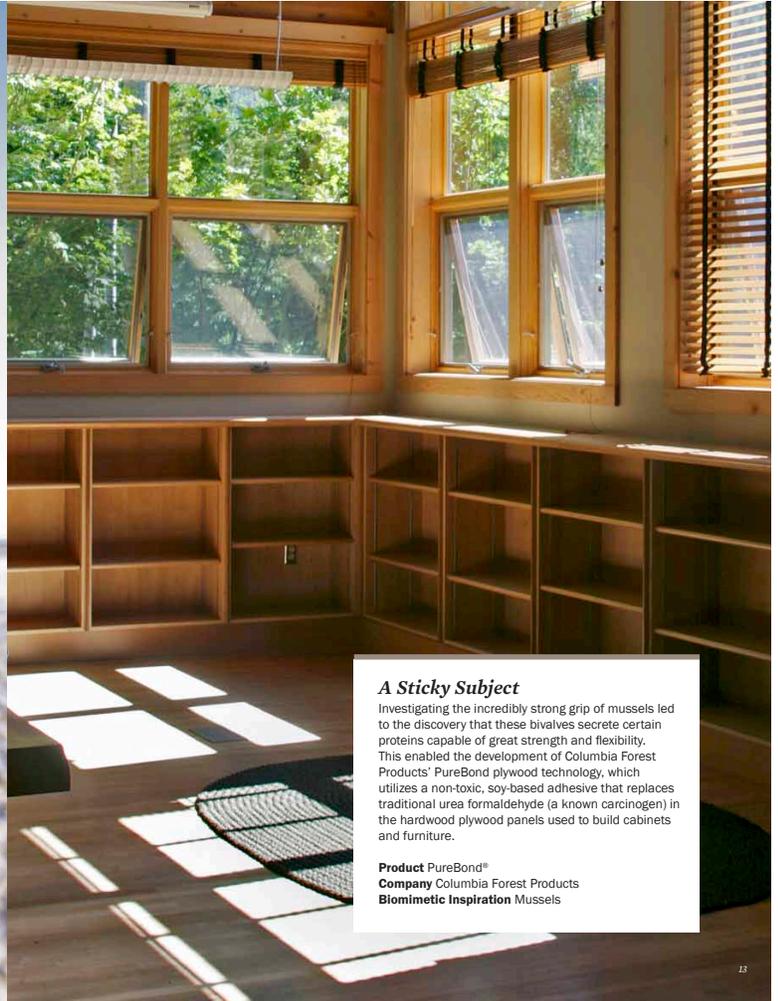


**Social Networks**

Inspired by swarm logic—the efficient communication network used by insects like ants and bees—REGEN Energy designed an automated energy efficiency demand management platform that turns pre-programmed systems upside down. It dramatically reduces peak electrical demand and allows for effective scheduling of electrical loads, simplifying the cost and complexity of energy management systems.

**Product** EnviroGrid™  
**Company** REGEN Energy  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Social Insects





**A Sticky Subject**

Investigating the incredibly strong grip of mussels led to the discovery that these bivalves secrete certain proteins capable of great strength and flexibility. This enabled the development of Columbia Forest Products' PureBond plywood technology, which utilizes a non-toxic, soy-based adhesive that replaces traditional urea formaldehyde (a known carcinogen) in the hardwood plywood panels used to build cabinets and furniture.

**Product** PureBond®  
**Company** Columbia Forest Products  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Mussels



**Clean Living**

Inspired by the Lotus Effect – the high water-repellence caused by a microscopic roughness on many plant leaves – the GreenShield team designed a similarly textured finish with a self-cleaning effect that carries dirt and stains off fabric.

The same premise is behind Sto Corp's StoCoat Lotusan, an exterior coating that allows dirt to simply run off with water that falls on the façade. The water-repellent properties are also beneficial for fighting colonization of microorganisms, including undesirable bacteria, especially on weatherexposed sides.

**Product** GreenShield®  
**Company** BigSky Technologies, LLC  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Lotus Leaf

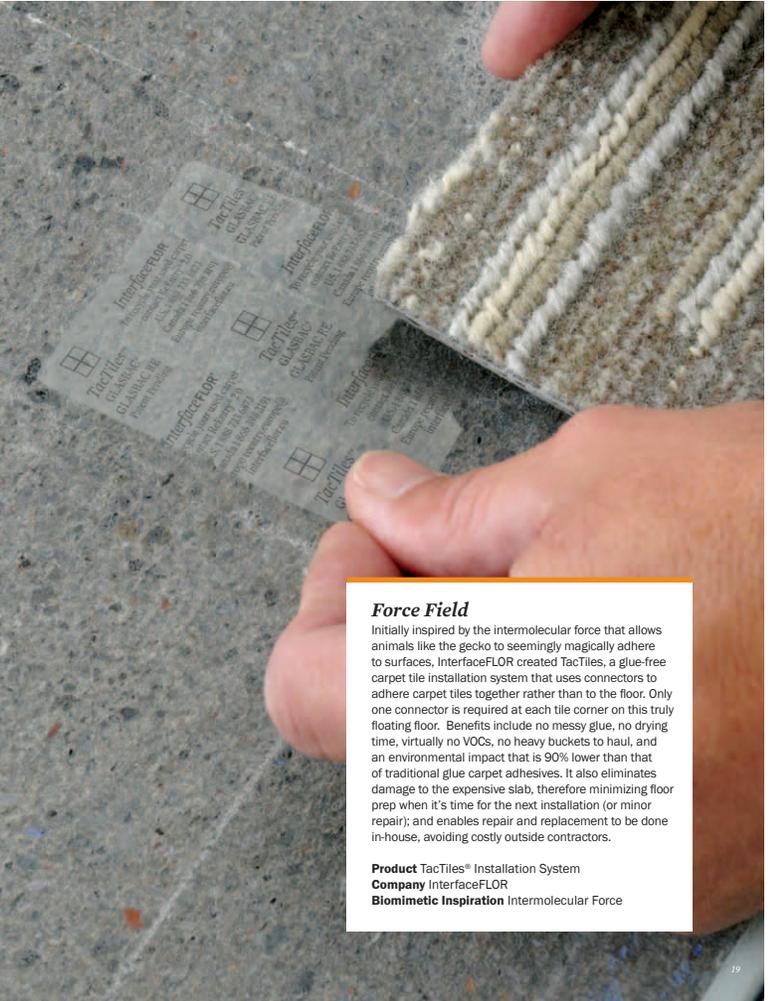
**Product** StoCoat Lotusan®  
**Company** Sto Corp  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Lotus Leaf



**Web Development**

Inspired by the techniques that spiders use to keep birds from flying through and destroying their webs, ARNOLD GLAS created ORNILUX Bird Protection Glass, with a patterned UV reflective coating. This makes it virtually transparent to the human eye yet visible to birds – thus reducing collisions – and has the added benefit of contributing to building insulation.

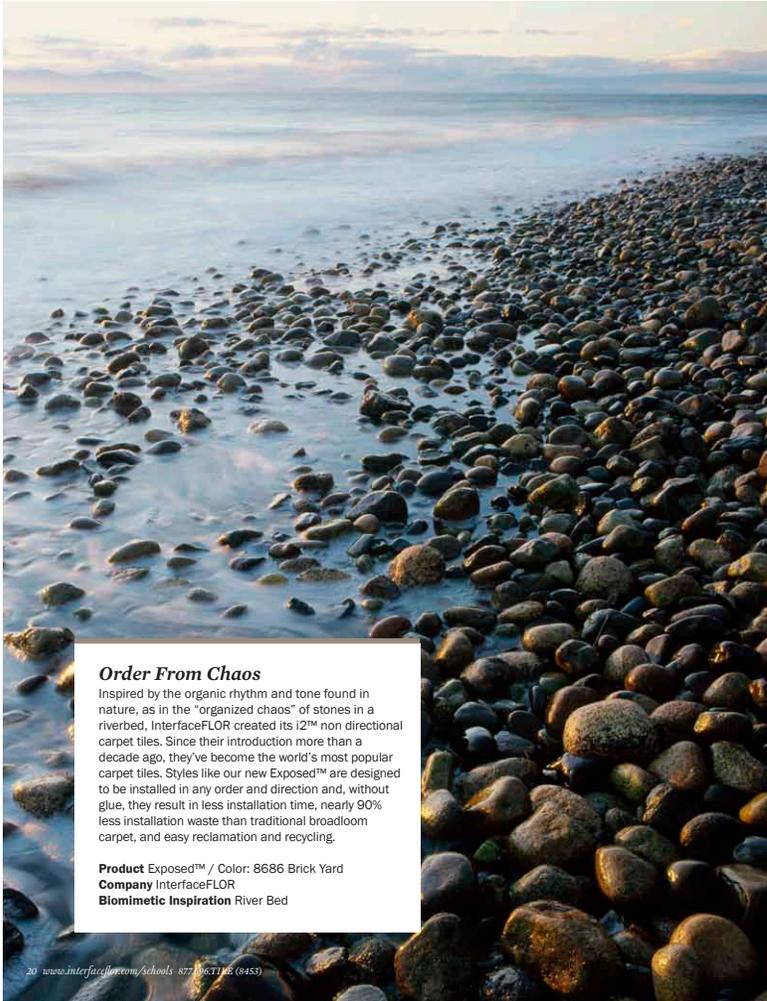
**Product** ORNILUX Bird Protection Glass  
**Company** ARNOLD GLAS  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Spider Web



**Force Field**

Initially inspired by the intermolecular force that allows animals like the gecko to seemingly magically adhere to surfaces, InterfaceFLOR created TacTiles, a glue-free carpet tile installation system that uses connectors to adhere carpet tiles together rather than to the floor. Only one connector is required at each tile corner on this truly floating floor. Benefits include no messy glue, no drying time, virtually no VOCs, no heavy buckets to haul, and an environmental impact that is 90% lower than that of traditional glue carpet adhesives. It also eliminates damage to the expensive slab, therefore minimizing floor prep when it's time for the next installation (or minor repair); and enables repair and replacement to be done in-house, avoiding costly outside contractors.

**Product** TacTiles® Installation System  
**Company** InterfaceFLOR  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Intermolecular Force



### **Order From Chaos**

Inspired by the organic rhythm and tone found in nature, as in the "organized chaos" of stones in a riverbed, InterfaceFLOR created its i2™ non directional carpet tiles. Since their introduction more than a decade ago, they've become the world's most popular carpet tiles. Styles like our new Exposed™ are designed to be installed in any order and direction and, without glue, they result in less installation time, nearly 90% less installation waste than traditional broadloom carpet, and easy reclamation and recycling.

**Product** Exposed™ / Color: 8686 Brick Yard  
**Company** InterfaceFLOR  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** River Bed





**Natural Beauty**

Bringing i2 to another level, Kaleidoscope™ takes inspiration from the serendipitous pattern of a multi-colored, leaf-strewn forest floor, and allows random mixing of i2 tiles in four colors to create a unique look every time. Designed to be installed in any order, the tiles comprise a highly efficient and sustainable system that further enhances selective replacement capabilities.

**Product** Kaleidoscope™  
**Company** InterfaceFLOR  
**Biomimetic Inspiration** Forest Floor





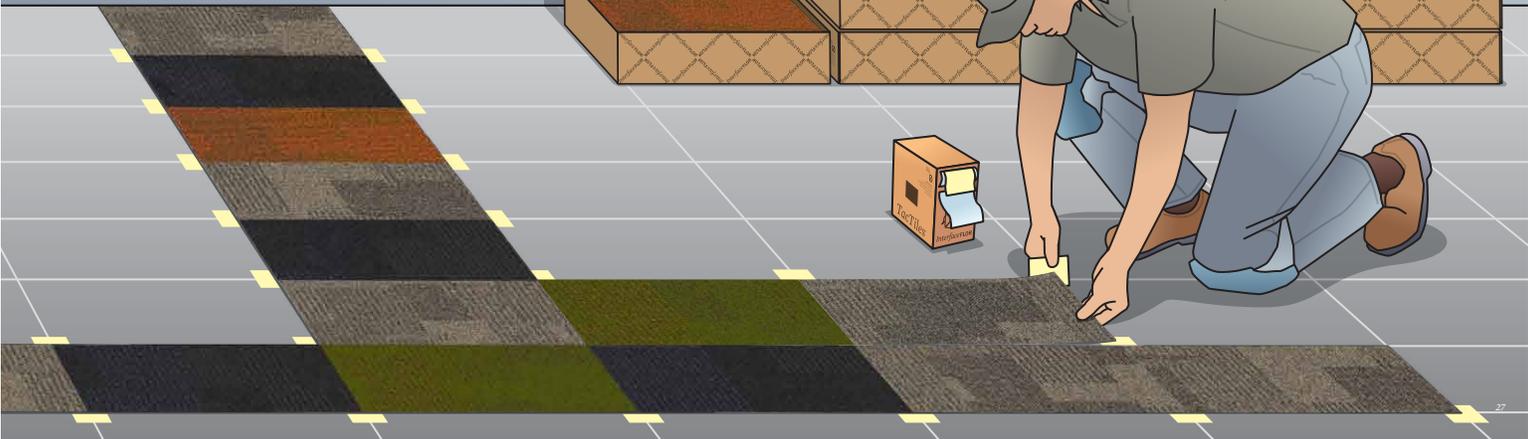
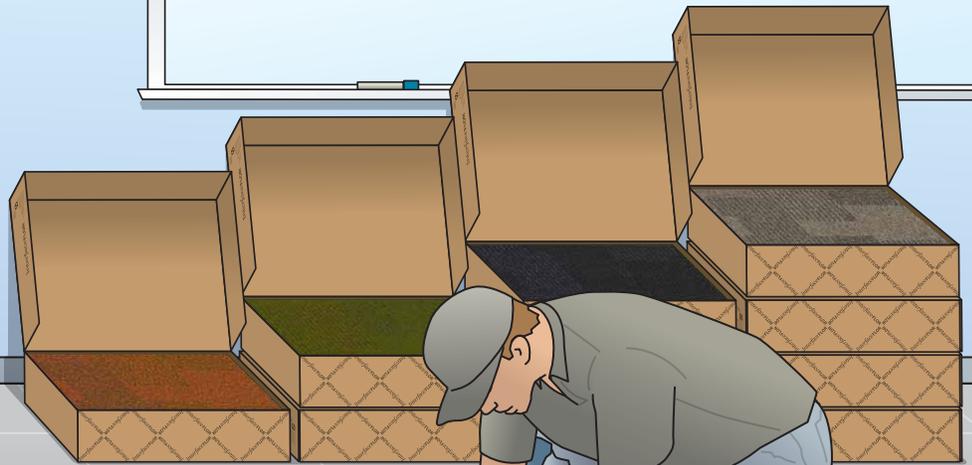
**Kaleidoscope made with:**  
**Product** Cubic™  
**Colors** 6392 Dimension and 4288 Geometry  
**Product** Cubic Colours™  
**Colors** 7264 Green and 7259 Painted Desert

### ***Kaleidoscope***

What do you get when you mix together any of our i2 non-directional carpet tiles? The wonderfully serendipitous logic that is Kaleidoscope. It's so easy. Start by choosing four colors in a 40/30/20/10 ratio (in the example below we used two colors each from our top-selling Cubic and Cubic Colours) and then randomly mix them on the floor. The end result is an eye-catching, one-of-a-kind design. You literally can't go wrong with this winning formula, which creates simple, snappy style for any classroom, corridor or cafeteria.

A	B	D	A
B	C	A	A
C	B	C	B
A	B	A	B
A	D	A	C

A. 40% B. 30% C. 20% D. 10%





**The Biomimetic Classroom**

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|--|---|
| <b>A.</b> Sharklet Surface Protection, pg.7    | <b>F.</b> Pangolin Backpack, pg.9               |
| <b>B.</b> ORNILUX Bird Protection Glass, pg.17 | <b>G.</b> Solar Ivy, pg.5                       |
| <b>C.</b> GreenShield, pg.15                   | <b>H.</b> StoCoat Lotusan, pg.15                |
| <b>D.</b> EnviroGrid, pg.11                    | <b>I.</b> TacTiles Installation System, pg.19   |
| <b>E.</b> PureBond, pg.13                      | <b>J.</b> Kaleidoscope Tile Installation, pg.23 |

A young girl with dark hair, wearing a dark blue cardigan over a green and yellow patterned shirt, is sitting on the grass under a tree. She is holding a yellow pencil and looking down at an open book she is reading. The background shows more trees and a bright, sunny day.

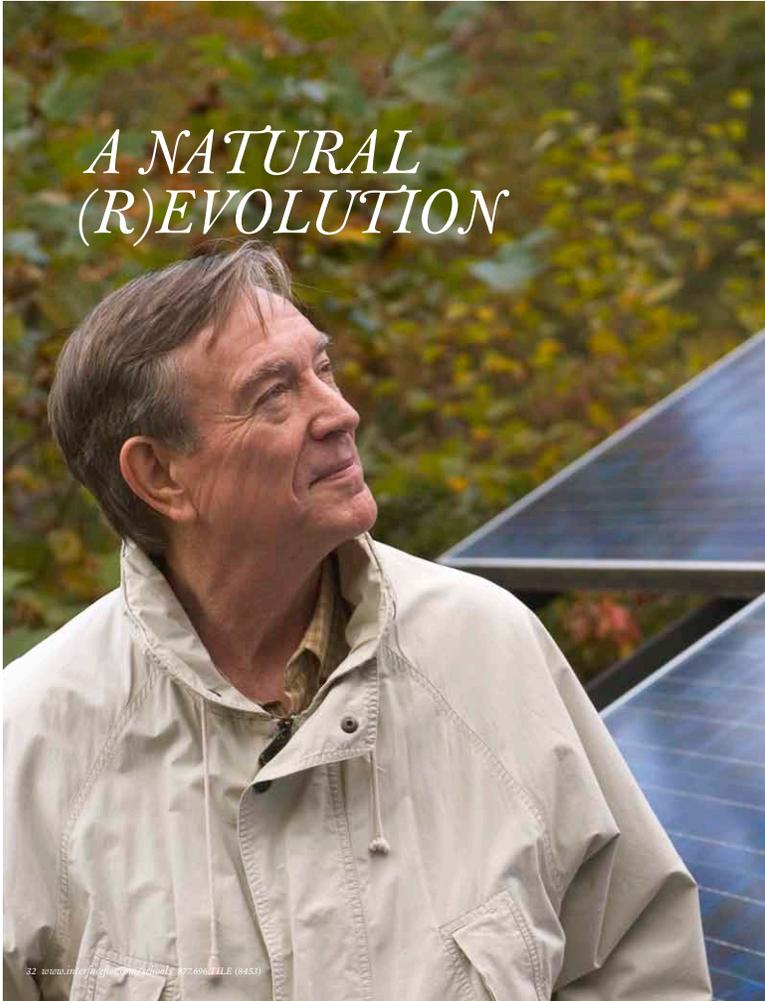
## LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.

So how can the wisdom of nature enhance our children's educations? Its influence in schools can extend well beyond buildings to include curricula, operations, maintenance and community involvement — all of which are equally vital to a learning environment and to a sustainable world. Facilities and grounds that have been designed with sustainability in mind provide an ideal forum for practicing sustainable actions and deepening students' understanding of their role as stewards of the planet.

Leadership is so important. What you implement, others will emulate. We must all embrace change to meet the learning needs critical to the 21st century.

To learn more about biomimicry, and how it can enrich your school's curriculum and the world we share, visit our dedicated microsite at [www.interfaceflor.com/schools](http://www.interfaceflor.com/schools). In addition to a variety of educational opportunities, we also include information on the Biomimicry 3.8 Institute. This non-profit organization is dedicated to nurturing and growing the global community of people learning from, emulating, and conserving life's genius to create a healthier and more sustainable human existence. It has developed a variety of teaching paradigms for K-12 and higher education to help achieve this important goal.

To learn more about biomimetic curricula available from the Biomimicry 3.8 Institute, visit [www.interfaceflor.com/schools](http://www.interfaceflor.com/schools).



# A NATURAL (R)EVOLUTION

In 1994, Interface founder Ray Anderson challenged his company to pursue a bold new vision: "To be the first company that, by its deeds, shows the entire industrial world what sustainability is in all its dimensions—people, process, product, place and profits—and in doing so, become restorative through the power of influence." Over the years, this commitment to sustainability reached all the parts of our business and evolved into our Mission Zero goal of eliminating all environmental impacts by 2020. It has connected us to a higher purpose and guided us along three paths: innovative solution for reducing our footprint; new ways to design and make products; and an inspired and engaged culture.

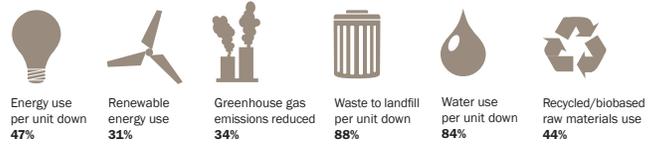
We have made great strides in minimizing the impacts our company operations have on the planet. Reducing our footprint has included everything from installing solar PV arrays on some of our facilities to

accelerating green building momentum to lowering waste costs by 42%.

We now envision, design and make products based on a nature-inspired cyclical model rather than on a linear, take-make-waste industrial one. This has helped us to use biomimicry to create more sustainable products; to better understand the impacts of new materials and processes; and to provide greater transparency to our customers.

Our commitment to Mission Zero has created a culture of inspired thinkers who are constantly imagining innovative solutions to change our business. By sharing our vision with all our employees we connect them to a higher purpose and they, in turn, take Mission Zero into their local communities through volunteering and philanthropy.

## Treading Lightly



\*Stats show global results from 1996 through 2011.



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## *GREEN LIGHT: ILLUMINATING THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION*

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*Interface is proud to be among the first corporate partners of Green Apple, a brand-new initiative from the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council. Through Green Apple, companies committed to advancing sustainability, education, and jobs directly contribute to the Center's mission to put every child in a green school within this generation. This dovetails beautifully with Interface's own Mission Zero, which keeps us focused on eliminating all our environmental impacts by 2020.*

Green Apple enriches students' learning experiences by supporting the design, construction and operation of sustainable educational environments, including both what is taught and where it is learned. With tomorrow's leaders in school today, we see an opportunity to educate a generation of "sustainability natives" who—along with educators, parents, communities and corporate partners—are more directly engaged in transforming our shared mission into a very attainable future.

