

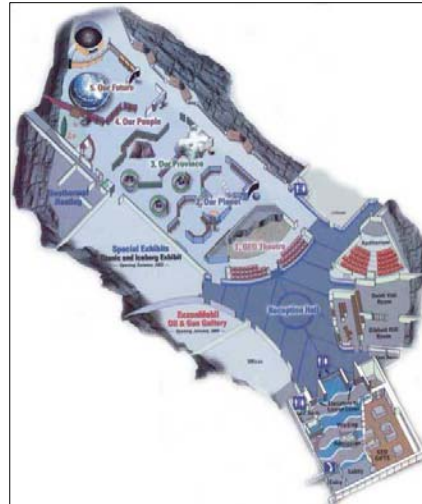
## A Floor Tour of Two Newfoundland Museums

Museums can be a cultural delight for the mind. At the same time, they can be torture on the feet! One thing museums do to alleviate this problem is install resilient flooring to cushion the impact for visitors who take the time to enjoy all the pleasures within their walls. In Newfoundland and Labrador – part of the Atlantic Provinces of Canada –two unique museums used this solution to great effect. Baker Flooring, of St. John's, Newfoundland, made sure the installations were "picture perfect" by using MAPEI's Floor Covering Installation Systems at the Johnson Geo Centre and at the cultural space known as The Rooms.

The Johnson Geo Centre is a museum that resides mostly underground. The visitor guide offers some interesting facts about the museum and its construction:

"Newfoundland and Labrador is unique as "Earth's Geological showcase." No other easily-reached place on the planet has a geological record that so fully reveals the fascinating story of our Earth – going back almost to our planet's birth, over 4.5 billion years ago. The province's oldest rocks, in northern Labrador, date from almost 4 billion years ago, and are amongst the very oldest rocks ever discovered on Earth.

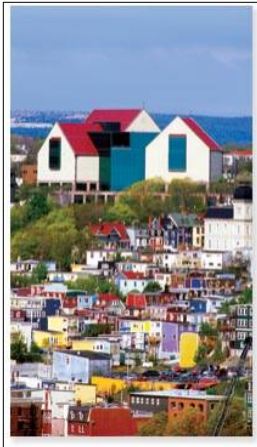
Today, the GEO CENTRE shows the amazing life-story of our planet, through the remarkable geology of Newfoundland and Labrador. One of the most distinctive buildings in the province, the GEO CENTRE is located on a beautiful 13-hectare (32-acre) property next to Signal Hill National Historic Site. The large, glass-encased entry is the only part of the building above ground. Most of the over 3,475-square meters (37,000 square feet) of floor space is underground – right inside of the excavated, solid rock walls. During construction, excavation went as deep as 5.5 to 6.0 meters (18 to 20 feet)."



For Dave Millman, project manager for Baker Flooring, working underground wasn't a big challenge. "We just had to reach into some oddly angled spaces," he said. "The walls of the museum are formed from the natural rock and mineral strata of Signal Hill." Over a total of 25,000 square feet (2,323 square meters), Baker Flooring installed several different types of resilient flooring. The installers carpeted 1,300 square yards (1,087 square meters) of the main auditorium and reception hall using *Ultrabond ECO® 90*. They laid almost 800 square yards (669 square meters) of

carpet tile in all the main exhibit areas using *Ultrabond ECO 800*. They glued down 500 square yards (418 square meters) of sheet vinyl in the ground level main lobby and in the underground lecture theatres using *Ultrabond ECO 350*. *Ultrabond® G19* was used to install a small amount of rubber flooring in the entranceway and all of the exhibit walkways on the lower level. The Baker team used *Ultrabond ECO 575* to install the baseboards around the edges of the flooring. “It was a big job,” said Millman, “but we really enjoyed doing it. We’re very proud of the museum and of the great job we did. We always use MAPEI adhesives, because we can depend on MAPEI’s products and MAPEI’s technical service.”

“We keep going back to do more small projects as the museum opens up new exhibits,” Millman added. “Recently we used *Ultrabond G19* to install a walkway in the ExxonMobil Gas & Energy Exhibit. The museum wanted to have the effect of a steel walkway at a refinery, but they used Mondo Events Sports Flooring to make the walkways more comfortable.”



“The Rooms” is a very different kind of cultural experience. The distinctive design of the museum mirrors the “fishing rooms” where Newfoundland families came together to process their catch in years past. The site of the museum is actually of great historical significance.

According to local information, almost 250 years ago, Fort Townshend occupied the land where The Rooms resides today. The huge star-shaped citadel, built to defend Britain’s fishing interests, was one of the largest British fortifications in North America at the time. In addition to the

museum, The Rooms houses historical archives and an art gallery displaying local as well as global contemporary art.

Baker Flooring installed over 10,000 square feet (929 square meters) of sheet vinyl in The Rooms, using *Ultrabond ECO 800*. Other products the team used included *Ultrabond ECO 90* for carpet installation, *Ultrabond ECO 300* for installing vinyl plank, *Ultrabond ECO 350* for vinyl tile, and *Ultrabond ECO 575* for the installation of wall base in many areas.

“This was a simple, straightforward project for us,” said Millman. “We used MAPEI adhesives for reliable results, and the results were beautiful floors for a unique cultural gathering place in St. John’s.”