

Project Profile: The Pub at the University of Chicago

A historic hangout gets a much-needed sprucing up thanks to Concare, Inc.

When students at the University of Chicago want to hang out and unwind after classes, they head to The Pub. Located in the historic Ida Noyes building, The Pub offers tasty snacks and beers from around the world, making it a popular nighttime destination. Unfortunately, The Pub's century-old floors couldn't keep up with all the foot traffic. With deep cracks, odor issues and a dim, dank atmosphere, a total facelift was called for—and that's where Concare stepped in.

The Concare team discovered that The Pub's existing concrete was old and heavily cracked from years of high traffic, which made it nearly impossible to clean. Decades of soaked-in spills on a sub-grade slab and the floor's dark color made the space dingy and uninviting. The concrete also had depth variations from 3 to 5 inches and, due to its age, lacked a moisture barrier.

Higher than normal moisture conditions, combined with the floor's major fractures, made university officials think that a complete removal of the concrete might be necessary. But prohibitive factors like time, building logistics and equipment limitations meant that starting from scratch wouldn't work.

Concare's Ron Puszynski suggested laminating fiberglass onto the most heavily damaged areas for reinforcement and then applying GuardRight EC-CQ, a resurfacing flooring system with ColorQuartz, to provide the strength needed to hold up to the space's heavy foot traffic. This system was also capable of withstanding the below-grade moisture conditions.

The Concare team began by surface grinding to preserve the concrete's remaining integrity and to prevent creating more damage. Then they applied fiberglass in areas with the highest concentration of cracking, providing the concrete with hidden durability. The system's light gray color brightened the space and ColorQuartz provided decorative strength. The system application was finished with a high-wear urethane in a satin finish to prevent premature wear.

If pictures say a thousand words, then the dramatic before and after photos of The Pub at the University of Chicago say it all: budget preservation through a concrete rescue, decorative durability installed in a busy environment and a remarkable transformation delivered by Concare, Inc.



Years of high traffic made the current floor almost impossible to clean.



Deep cracks, odor issues and a dim, dank atmosphere led to a massive flooring renovation at The Pub.



A remarkable transformation with the GuardRight EC-CQ system, delivered by Concare, Inc.

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