



The Juri-Gagarin Elementary School, Stendal, Germany

## Outdated Elementary School Gets Lesson in Modern Design

The Juri-Gagarin Elementary School in Stendal, Germany, was erected in 1978, using uninspired, prefabricated concrete. Today, the school boasts a modern look, thanks to a \$3.2 million renovation, and a simple but efficient design concept.

From a distance, the building's strong red façade is evident. From the outside, the elementary school looks friendly and inviting, and this impression continues inside the building. These new aesthetic features are drastically different from the Juri-Gagarin Elementary School of the past. The original school was built as a prefabricated concrete-slab building that had become badly outdated and did not meet modern demands. At the end of the 1990s, the town of Stendal decided to overhaul and rebuild the building. The town commissioned the Stendal architecture firm of Klautzsch with the planning.

By implementing Klautzsch's design, the building was transformed into a modern, vibrant structure. The interior of the school greets the students with a friendly design featuring an abundance of colors on the floors and other interior elements which are highlighted against the mostly white walls.

In agreement with the principal of the school, the architects selected nora® rubber flooring to compliment the school's new, attractive and lively design. The town of Stendal already had positive experiences with nora® products in other buildings; they knew that nora® rubber floor coverings are extremely durable and easy to clean. In addition, nora® products contribute to good indoor air quality, they do not emit harmful PVCs or halogens and are GREENGUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified for Children and Schools™.

The school's cozy atmosphere is conveyed through the warm yellow shade of noraplan® stone. To make it easier to get around, the flooring was combined with an inlay technique using blue, red or green rubber flooring on all four floors of the school. Circular patterns around the edges of the rooms and diagonally oriented flooring provide bright accents in the classrooms, while broad stripes, circles and ellipses individually divide the corridors.

One of the special features is the design of the classrooms near the coat racks. In these areas, both nora® rubber flooring and nora® cove base were used in order to protect the walls against damage and provide a smooth transition between the floor and wall covering.

With the exception of the wet areas (kitchen, bathrooms and locker room showers), every area of the school features nora® rubber flooring. In the stairwells, norament® stairtreads were quickly and safely installed using nora® stepfix, a special dry adhesive that is odorless.

Today, Juri-Gagarin Elementary School students, teachers and townspeople enjoy 36,600 square feet of colorful, environmentally-friendly nora® rubber flooring in a newly renovated building that the town of Stendal, students and teachers can all be proud of.

### nora® Rubber Flooring

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