Educational environments have become showcases for panel-processed goods. Whether for desking, flooring, cabinetry, work surfaces or other storage areas, panels and decorative surfaces are the perfect answer. Aesthetics are an important part of creating an environment that is conducive to maximizing learning potential. Studies have shown that environment-based education enhances critical thinking skills central to “good science”—questioning, investigating, forming hypotheses, interpreting data, analyzing, developing conclusions and solving problems.

Durability is a key component in selecting materials to be used in these spaces. Vertical and horizontal surfaces need certain characteristics to ensure longevity. High pressure laminate (HPL), thermally fused laminate (TFL), solid surface, compact laminate, three-dimensional laminate (3DL) and others meet these needs while being aesthetically pleasing.
4 Locker rooms must be functional and appealing yet stand up to the wear and tear that come with the territory. Surfaces are typically made of **TFL, HPL or compact laminate**. 5 Abundant storage and ease of access are critical attributes of cabinets in science areas, and they also must look good and withstand less-than-delicate treatment at the hands of young students. **TFL** is a good choice for vertical surfaces, while **HPL** is perfect for table and counter tops. 6 Accent walls in this university library are aluminum slats and louvers covered in a hyper-realistic non-pvc surface. The materials used and highly-controlled manufacturing process make this product perfect for ‘green’ building.

See pages 36-82 for more detailed product descriptions and performance characteristics.