A comprehensive facility specializing in the care of those living with Alzheimer’s and dementia in the Atlanta area.

“We want to provide the absolute top quality of care for individuals,” explains Kevin DiBona, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of The Memory Center. “We want to empower the individual and make sure they live with dignity and respect. It’s their home, and we’re trying to make it feel like their home. Everything that we do is based upon that loving feeling.”

The community is comprised of 48 residential suites designed around an innovative Town Center concept – a centralized, interactive area featuring a movie theater, library, general store, bank, tavern, ice cream stand and salon with touches of iconic, historic Atlanta. Residents reside in four neighborhoods with fully-functioning kitchens, living rooms and dining rooms. “Community is such a
“We were able to have a seamless floor without thresholds throughout the entire community. That greatly helped reduce the number of falls that our residents were having.” – Kevin DiBona, CEO, The Memory Center
of residents. It allows individuals to feel comfortable with their setting and not feel as if they’re in an institution. The aesthetic alone allows patients to be calmer and to feel comfortable in their environment,” says Dr. Mohan.

It was important to the design team to find a flooring solution that was aesthetically pleasing. It also had to provide slip resistance, acoustic benefits, wayfinding and be easy to maintain. The Center selected Interface products, including carpet tile, LVT and nora rubber flooring, to support its mission of fostering patient safety and independence. “A flooring solution that is seamless, slip-resistant, cushioned and easy to clean is ideal in this type of setting,” says Alvarado.

“Flooring is important in a health care setting because many of our residents use walkers or wheelchairs, and a lot of them shuffle,” explains Julie Taylor, Executive Director of The Memory Center. “You can’t have an area for them to trip... falls are one of the biggest events that can change a senior’s life.”

Interface’s carpet tile and LVT are compatible in height, creating a seamless floor without need for transition strips. “We were able to have a seamless floor without thresholds throughout the entire community. That greatly helped reduce the number of falls that our residents were having,” says DiBona. “Because of our demographics, we need to keep everyone safe, but we also need to be able to move around and do the things we want to do and not worry about slipping or causing any problems,” adds McNamara.

Residents have the freedom to participate in their choice of activities daily, giving them access to the entire facility. Therefore, it is critical that the flooring be resistant to wear from moving furniture and the rolling of wheelchairs and walkers.

“Our floors need to handle constant wear and tear, as well as spills, and must be able to be cleaned easily,” says Taylor. “We don’t have a huge staff for our maintenance department, so housekeeping needs to happen quickly and easily because residents are in the facility all the time.”

Dr. Mohan also notes the importance of acoustical properties in memory care. “Individuals with dementia have a difficult time filtering out sounds. It’s important that the acoustics of a building prevent individuals from being bombarded with excessive ambient noise, so they can focus on their task at hand.”

With Interface carpet, LVT and nora® rubber flooring, acoustics haven’t been a problem for The Memory Center. “The floors absorb the sound when we’re moving around or dragging tables, so it’s not irritating to the residents,” says McNamara.

**Fostering Freedom**

The Memory Center strives to give its residents a sense of independence, offering them opportunity to move between areas as they wish, and the flooring plays a significant role in realizing that freedom. “The building is designed to be as functional and as easy for our residents and guests as possible,” says McNamara. “The flooring is important because it transitions from one space to the next, from the town center to the neighborhoods. So, they’re able to use the flooring to know where they are going and where they’re at.”
“Some people have a preconceived notion of what memory care is and then they come here, and they realize, wow, I didn’t know this was memory care.”
– Stacey McNamara, Activities Director, The Memory Center
“We make it easy for them. We keep them as independent as they can for as long as they can,” adds Taylor.

**The Proof is in the Smiles**

Since opening, The Memory Center Atlanta has seen the success of its unique program and facility in the flourishing lives of its residents. “The Center gives seniors the grace that allows them to thrive,” says Dr. Mohan. “Some individuals come from facilities where they were ignored and here at The Memory Center, they thrive. They’ve regained cognitive function in a way that allows them to more fully enjoy their life.”

“Some people have a preconceived notion of what memory care is and then they come here, and they realize, wow, I didn’t know this was memory care,” explains McNamara. “My favorite thing is being able to give our residents purpose and love and to just share what beautiful lives they still have to live. It is a privilege and an honor to work with these people.”

“I think the biggest thing we excel at is giving them their life back,” says Taylor. “The beauty of this place is that when residents come here, they feel free.”

**PROJECT DETAILS**

**Facility** The Memory Center  
**Location** Johns Creek, GA  
**Lead Designer** Lilliana Alvarado; UPHEALING, NY, NY  
**Architects** Nelson-Tremain Partnership  
**Photography** VantagePoint3D  
**Interface Products** LVT: Level Set™ Collection; Carpet: Shiver Me Timbers™; Rubber: norament® satura (not shown)

**THE SHORT STORY - WHY INTERFACE?**

1. **Seamless Floors** – Interface’s carpet tile and Sound Choice™ LVT are compatible in height so there’s no need for transition strips that could cause potential falls.

2. **Single Source** – Interface offers a wide variety of carpet tiles, LVT and nora® rubber flooring, making it easy to specify the right flooring for each area.

3. **Quieter Spaces** – Interface flooring offers optimum sound reduction for a more peaceful atmosphere.

4. **Built to Last** – Interface carpet tiles, LVT and nora rubber are built to withstand foot traffic, moving furniture and rolling loads with minimal daily maintenance from in-house staff.