

# Parade

A sneak peak at some of the hottest trends you'll see at the 2006 Parade of Homes Spring Preview™, from February 11-March 19.

# Hits

By Fran Howard



Sleek marmoleum floors in the Lander Group lofts are made with earth-friendly materials and resist wear and tear.

## Linoleum/Marmoleum

Known as linoleum or marmoleum, the cool retro look of this all-natural floor is being revived, particularly in urban development. Invented 140 years ago, the all-natural flooring is a mixture of linseed oil, powdered cork, and other organic materials. Unlike its synthetic counterpart vinyl flooring, linoleum/marmoleum is a durable flooring that is resistant to scratches and dents, and it is made without any synthetic chemicals. Thus, not only is it considered an earth-friendly material, it also springs to life after taking a beating and offers a bright, colorful option for homes with contemporary design. The Lander Group in Minneapolis makes good use of this flooring style at its Printers Row lofts in downtown St. Paul. "This hard-surface, industrial-quality flooring resonates most with young professionals because of its edgy feel," says Nate Wissink, development manager with the Lander Group. "It's also a cost-competitive product with environmentally sustainable characteristics."

Available in sheets or tiles, linoleum is 100 percent biodegradable. That makes it healthy to produce and install, as well as when it comes time to dispose of the product. The flooring can be installed with solvent-free adhesives, eliminating dangerous emissions, that can cause a variety of health problems ranging from eye, nose, and throat irritation to liver damage to cancer. Plus, oxidation of the linseed oil in the product keeps microorganisms like salmonella from multiplying, making it an excellent choice for lower-levels. ♦