The first installation of a new line of decorative wall surfaces was completed in a remodeled Grand Union grocery store in Manalapan, NJ. The Manalapan store, one of about 350 Grand Union stores in the northeastern US, recently installed Surface Systems Three in the entry of the store, providing a clean, open look.

The store’s entry has a 20-foot high ceiling with a slanted glass roof, providing an atrium-like setting. Custom-sized 3 ft by 3 ft panels with a specially designed white, high gloss, high pressure laminate finish were installed in the upper area, starting at 9 ft to the 20-ft ceiling. The panels are framed in custom-matched red batten trim to coordinate with Grand Union’s bright red-on-white color scheme.

“The real benefit of using this product is the aesthetic appeal,” said Richard Krumich, director of corporate planning, Grand Union Company. “The system was easy to install and less costly than porcelain panels and wood trim,” Krumich added.

The store was converted from an existing building, completed in August 1992, and has 53,000 sq ft of usable space. Grand Union’s trademark appearance of white porcelain panels on the exterior was brought inside the Manalapan store with the installation of the panels. Solid maple trim is used throughout Grand Union stores. The result is a clean, fresh look that is important to many grocery retailers.

“The real advantage of the panels is that you can create any range of effects you desire, and at minimal cost,” said Krumich.

Roy Rosenbaum and Associates was the architectural firm for the renovation. Grand Union is considering similar renovation in additional locations.

Based in Dover, OH, Marlite is a privately owned manufacturer of architectural interior finishes for commercial and institutional applications.