

ACTIVE ACOUSTICS & SPEECH PRIVACY

ACTIVE ACOUSTICS

Active acoustics are introduced into occupied environments to enhance speech privacy. Tuning and active acoustics system requires full knowledge of criteria such as: architectural configuration, space planning as well as acoustic characteristics of all boundary surfaces.

ENHANCING WORKSPACE EFFECTIVENESS...

Noise is a major concern in the working environment. Regardless of what the architectural configuration may be: open plan based or closed office, noise distracts and is ranked as employees main concern in their working environment. Now, there is a way to reduce noise and increase workspace effectiveness. With i-ceilings from Armstrong...ceilings that do more than just cover the plenum.

CASE STUDIES

“How Interior Design impacts productivity”

A Detroit – based insurance company designed its new office to incorporate team structures, ergonomic furniture, improved privacy (i.e. active acoustics) and new state-of the art environmental systems. Pre- and post- occupancy evaluations showed a 137% decrease in time required to process client paperwork, a 9 % drop in errors and defective claims, and a drop in absenteeism to 1.6% from 4.4%.

ASID Productive solutions:

“The impact of interior design on the bottom line”

“How privacy, noise reduction impact productivity”

Office employees reported that their perceived effectiveness increased on average of 13% by reducing noise from background conversations, office equipment and mechanical systems, in a field research project co-led by Armstrong World Industries. Project participants included Blue Shield of California, Ford Motorland Services Company, Honeywell, IBM Canada and U.S. Navy Federal Credit Union.

“Monster.com – Recruiting and retaining qualified employees”

Privacy and interaction needs are balanced in the telesales area by arranging semi-open workstations in a zigzag pattern. This approach minimizes auditory and visual distractions, yet allows an employee to easily communicate with co-workers simply by backing up their chair. Acoustical materials and sound-masking systems further reduce office noise. The design team also differentiate lighting to subtly express the distinction between private workspaces and interactive social spaces.

“Improve workspace effectiveness with Armstrong high-performance acoustical ceilings”

Researches surveyed employees at six major corporations, before and after the installation of high performance acoustical ceilings and sound masking:

- Blue Shield of California
- Ford Motorland Services Company
- Honeywell
- IBM Canada
- Navy Federal Credit Union
- Atco International

The introduction of higher performance ceilings (more absorptive) and sound masking created more effective workspaces:

- Worker satisfaction increased 174% after routine office noise (background conversation) was reduced;
- Workers reported significantly reduced stress; After three or four months in the acoustically improved workspace, workers reported that they believed they were an average of 13% more productive.

ACTIVE ACOUSTICS INSTALLATION REVIEWS

“This dramatically changes the way we look at the construction of all of our spaces.”

IBM Director of Facilities

“Your product offering will reshape our sound industry.”

Executive, Top National Sound Contractor

“You have shown me why I should upgrade my ceilings and at the same time provide masking in open and closed plans to improve my privacy and reduce the complaints I’m getting.”

VP Real Estate and Facilities, Nextel

“We used to resist paging because of the poor quality. Now this issue is all opened up again because of your speakers.”

VP Real Estate and Facilities, Nextel

