Allsteel®

Collaborating to Evolve the Modern Workplace

Applied Acoustics

2025 Second Edition

"Health and wellbeing have the biggest impact on an individual's cognitive ability. The physical, digital, and built environment factors must combine to offer the best possible experience, or you'll see productivity decline."

Emma Hendry, People Experience Managing Director for JLL Consulting

Poor acoustics are a major contributor to workplace dissatisfaction and have a direct impact on employee health and wellbeing. Consideration of acoustics is a key element to create productive places where employees can focus and thrive.

Table of Contents

Today's Evolving Workplace

Poor acoustics are a source of frustration, distraction, and dissatisfaction in the work environment. The way we work is evolving and design trends will continue to change. However, the impact of those changes on acoustics is often not considered. Without thoughtful acoustic design, these spaces are likely to be more distracting, less productive, underutilized, and unhealthy for workers.

Allsteel is invested in created spaces that meet workspace needs on every level. We heard our clients' desire for better acoustic solutions, and a simultaneous lack of clarity on how to achieve their goals. We are continuing our journey to research and assess acoustics to provide better solutions to address these issues.

In this E-Book, we will provide clarity to the complexity of acoustical design. We aim to have a discussion about measuring success through user satisfaction rather than outdated metrics. Our goal is to make spaces that work.

The Office is Changing

These changes have implications for acoustics. Consider how the following factors may change the perception of sound:

- Hybrid work schedules
- Digital conferencing
- More open-plan workspaces
- Shorter desk partitions
- Fewer private offices
- Exposed building systems
- Improved access to outside light (taller ceilings, more glass)
- Easier access to communication devices (cell phones)

The Impact of Sound

What We Know

The Bottom Line is that Noise Affects Us

Some noises are pleasant—in fact, if utilized correctly, noise can be part of biophilic design. However, the wrong noise, or more appropriately the wrong attributes of sound, can have a negative impact on the occupants.

Interior sounds like talking, typing, or building mechanical systems are linked with health and productivity detriments. Noise can impact perceived privacy, increase distraction, and reduce worker satisfaction. Studies have shown that office workers lose as many as 86 minutes per day due to noise distraction.

"Acoustic success is not going to be measured by arbitrary values. Instead, success will be based on user experience, perception, and space utilization."

Erik Miller-Klein, Tenor Engineering Group

Most Vexing Noises in the Office, According to Industry Research

- Conversations
- Phone voices
- Coughing, sneezing, and sniffing
- Ringing phones
- Food and eating sounds
- Whistling
- Rhythmic tapping
- Slamming doors
- Bad music/music from headphones
- Loud typing

What We Are Learning

Good Acoustic Design Does Not Happen by Accident

Setting success metrics for acoustical design must happen at the beginning of a project. Additionally, one-size-fits-all and prescriptive solutions do not allow for flexibility. Standard acoustic ratings, such as STC, may not be meaningful for applications that differ from the conditions under which testing was conducted. In fact, this is true for most applications.

We are learning that we cannot rely on the traditional ways of speaking about and designing for acoustics. The ultimate measure of success is a positive user experience.

"There is so much nomenclature around acoustics–and that is part of the challenge. We do not have a common language when we talk about it."

Erik Miller-Klein, Tenor Engineering Group

Wellness & Acoustic Research

Research has linked the impact of sound to human wellness in numerous studies. In interior spaces, poor acoustics have been associated with an increase in stress and reduction in perceived privacy, learning, focus, memory, and productivity.

Despite the understood impacts that sound can have, there has been no government-sponsored research on the national level since the early 1980s. Additionally, the guidance that came out of earlier research is not applicable to current office trends and space usage.

Other groups have taken on the task of conducting, aggregating, and suggesting action regarding interior acoustics, however. These groups include International Green Construction Code, LEED, and WELL Building Standard.

Considerations for Diversity

It is important to note that the impact of noise on individuals is not universal. We all have a spectrum of sensitivity to these inputs, and we need to be understanding of these differences in neurological processing. A noise that may be easily ignored by one individual can be debilitating for another.

Neurodiversity & Acoustics

The idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many ways is called Neurodiversity. To simplify this further, neurodiversity is the understanding that there are vast differences in the way our brains process inputs. Discussions about neurodiversity often focus on considerations for individuals with neurological impairments such as autism spectrum disorder; however, considerations for more subtle differences in the way we respond to inputs from the world are also warranted. When we think about how acoustics affect users of a space, we need to remember that everyone is affected differently.

For example, certain types of noises my be more triggering (more sensitive) than other types. We can think of how we process the world with all of our senses—and how our sensitivity to these inputs can range from hyper-sensitive to hyposensitive (under-reaction). In fact, we can have hypersensitivities and hyposensitivities within the same sense.

Spectrum of Sensitivity

This below visual example is just one way we can illustrate hypo and hyper sensitivities. We may have ranges of sensitivities in all the ways we understand and perceive the world around us through all our senses. We can have hypo and hyper sensitivities to different noises, colors, movements, odors, touches, etc. etc. This understanding of balance and knowing where we are in space and how we react to inputs is called Proprioception.

HYPOSENSITIVE

Diminished cognitive response to stimuli

NEUROTYPICAL

Typical response to stimuli

NOISE

HYPERSENSITIVE

Increased or sensitive cognitive response to stimuli

INPUTS

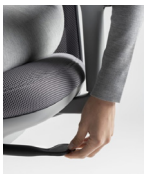
Acoustics

Proprioception

Colors

Visual

Movement



Navigation

Odors

Tactile

Lighting

58% of employees still consider their home environment superior for focused work, while 45% believe it better supports their overall productivity. More than a quarter cited office noise and inability to focus as a reason to work from home.

Source: JLL global survey, "Is Hybrid Really Working?"

Debunking Misconceptions

When considering how we can properly design for acoustics, there are some common misconceptions to be aware of.

Misconception 1: The acoustic performance and needed materials can be easily determined

Oftentimes, the right conversations are not being had up front about acoustical needs with end users because acoustical testing ranges widely on what is being tested and how. With no common measuring stick for acoustics, it can be difficult to ascertain exactly what is needed and how it will be achieved.

Misconception 2: Most buildings complete acoustical testing at the conclusion of construction

It is very often the case that acoustical testing is either overlooked when a building is complete or eliminated due to cost savings measures.

Misconception 3: Laboratory ratings and best practices ensure performance success and satisfaction for users

Laboratory testing is done exactly in that way—in a lab. It is not testing real life applications and therefore can only ascertain an individual material's performance in that controlled environment.

Misconception 4: Annual post occupancy surveys are used to determine acoustical satisfaction

While we are seeing more and more that the recommendation is to complete yearly surveys to ensure consistent high performance of spaces, it has yet to make it into common practice. This allows for inefficiencies due to people or building changes getting overlooked year over year.

Diagnosing Acoustic Challenges & Controlling Sound

Sound Issue Within the Room

Sound Issue Between the Rooms or Spaces

Sound Issue Out in the Open Space

As we know, acoustical privacy is one of the biggest complaints in the workplace, and customers are now recognizing an immediate need to solve for it. Many people think that by putting the "right" type of walls or acoustical treatments into their space they will solve for the acoustical problem – once and for all. Unfortunately, that's not the case. These are only a part of the overall equation.

When it comes to sound privacy, there are 3 challenges we have to overcome.

Sound Issue Within the Room

(You may call it "echo")

The larger the area of the hard surfaces, the more opportunities for the sound to bounce around and become "echoey". To solve for this, you need to incorporate materials that help "ABSORB" the sound. Ceiling and Floors are the most important target area to help absorb the sound.

Sound Issue Between the Rooms or Spaces

Example: being able to hear the conversation in the room next door.

Many people are concerned about someone in the room next to them hearing a conversation. To solve for this, you need to use materials that help "BLOCK" and reduce the sound travel. Walls and ceilings play a major role here to contain the sound.

Sound Issue Out in the Open Space

(Sound traveling across an open area causing distraction to the individuals within)

There are several ways to address this issue and a lot of it has to do with the floorplan design, adjacencies, and zoning. You may also want to look into a Sound masking system to "COVER" the noises or acoustical ceiling treatments to "ABSORB".

The Impact of Sound

How Sound Moves

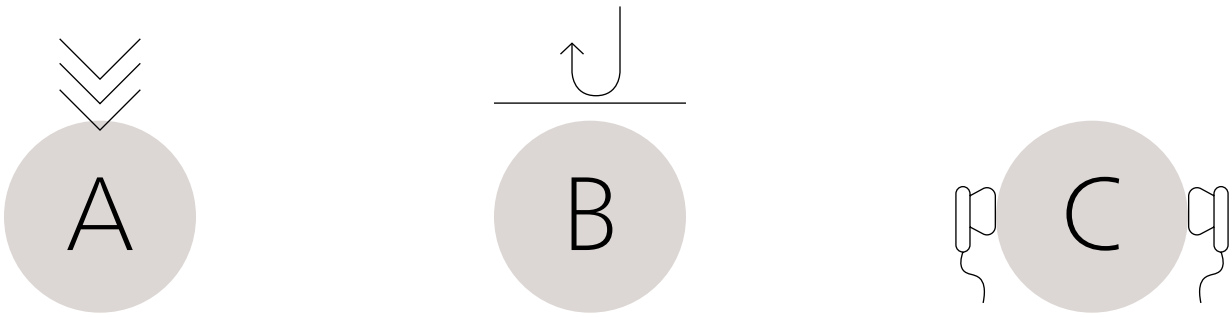
Sound behaves much like water—it naturally seeks pathways to escape and can "leak" through any gaps.

Imagine an aquarium. If its sides aren't completely sealed, regardless of the materials used, water will find a way out. Now apply that image to a room: think of its walls, ceiling, and floor as the aquarium's boundaries. Sound will find any way it can to leak out.

While design conversations frequently focus on wall performance, it is essential to highlight the role of all sides of a room and the materials being used within to prevent sound transmission.

The ABCDEs of Acoustics

So to achieve the optimal level of acoustical performance, there are many elements that need to be brought together. You may have heard about the ABCs of Acoustics before, "Absorb, Block and Cover", but it is important to take it a step (or two!) further. In the context of planning and furnishing the workplace, we can't undermine the importance of D and E. We put these elements simply as A, B, C, D, E.: Absorb, Block, Cover, Design, and Evolve



Absorb

To absorb sound within a space, we often turn to acoustic ceiling tiles, acoustic wall treatments, carpeting, etc. These softer surfaces do not allow sound to bounce around a space as easily resulting in a reduction in echo. The areas within a space we most often discover issues with echo include the flooring and ceiling.

Block

To block sound within a space, we often turn to the walls (the type of wall matters!), partitions, gallery panels between desks, etc. These separations of space aim to trap the sound within preventing it from leaking and being heard in adjacent areas. The areas within a space we most often discover issues with include the walls and ceiling.

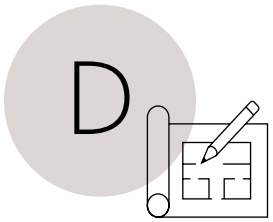
Two notes of caution: the type of wall and how it is constructed plays a crucial role in its performance. Have you ever had a home inspector tell you your insulation is lacking in certain areas causing you to lose heat/AC? Well, just as air travels through your home, sound travels in the same way. The level of insulation, engineering of the trim profiles, which door type is specified, etc. will all greatly impact the acoustical performance of walls.

Cover

To cover sound within a space, we often turn to sound masking, background noise or music, occupancy rates, etc. Sound masking and background noise aim to cover up general office noise with a more consistent sound. Sound masking can be explained by an analogy with light. Imagine a dark room where someone is turning a flashlight on and off. The light is very obvious and distracting. Now imagine that the room lights are turned on. The flashlight is still being turned on and off, but is no longer noticeable because it has been "masked". Sound masking is a similar process of covering a distracting sound with a more soothing or less intrusive sound. As far as occupancy rates, the more people using a space = the more general "hum" within the office. This general hum covers a significant amount of individual noises such as talking, coughing, ruffling papers, printers, etc.

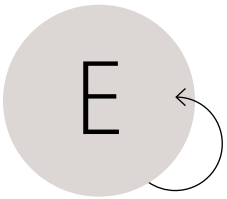
The ABCDEs of Acoustics (Continued)

Visual privacy does not always result is auditory privacy. On the contrary, studies have shown that as individuals are given more visual privacy, they actually start to speak louder disrupting those around them that may be out of sight but not out of earshot.



Design

Interior design is instrumental in acoustic solutioning by thoughtfully zoning spaces, establishing intentional adjacencies, and selecting furniture that supports sound absorption and control. Zoning helps separate noisy functions (such as a printer room) or teams from quiet ones, reducing sound bleed and distractions. Proper adjacencies ensure that sound-sensitive areas—like focus zones or meeting rooms—aren't positioned near high-traffic or loud environments—life cafes or entrances. Furniture selection (e.g. upholstered pieces, acoustic screens, and absorbent finishes) enhance speech clarity and create pockets of auditory comfort throughout the space. Together, these strategies align aesthetic goals with acoustic integrity, enabling environments that feel both functional and emotionally tuned.



Evolve

After all, the layout and elements that are designed into a space should evolve with change. Effective acoustic solutioning isn't static—it requires ongoing adaptation to match the evolving function, occupancy, and behavioral patterns of a space. As environments shift due to organizational change, technology, or user needs, revisiting acoustics ensures continued performance, comfort, and inclusivity. Designing with flexibility in mind—from modular treatments to scalable zoning strategies—positions teams to respond not just to today's needs, but to tomorrow's demands.

Measuring Success

Acoustical Nomenclature & Misnomers

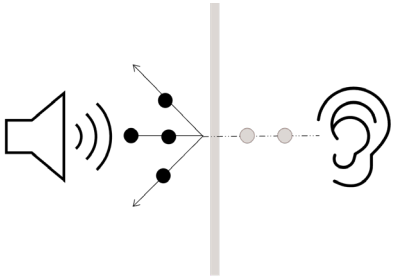
The intent of acoustic nomenclature is to assign technical metrics to human perception. This goal is important, but also limited. It is important that we understand the limitations of these metrics, and also appreciate how they do and do not communicate expectations and perceptions of users within the space.

Using a single metric to describe acoustics is akin to representing a famous painting with a single color. A single color, even if it is the most dominant color in the painting, does not give a full understanding of the complexity of the image within the painting.

Acoustical performance is complex, and representing it with a single metric may result in performance that does not match user expectations.

On the following pages we have outlined some of the most common metrics, what they mean, the testing methods, where they're beneficial, and where they fall short. Our goal is to provide a deeper understanding of these metrics.

Common Terminology

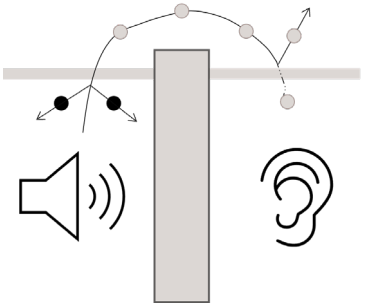


STC—Sound Transmission Class

Single-number rating system; higher STC ratings indicate better **sound isolation and reduced sound transmission** through an individual product.

STC is tested for within a lab setting and oftentimes the material is sealed within a concrete structure to isolate sound transfer through the individual product. Doing so allows for test **results specific to the material**, but it does not account for installed application conditions. As an example, we have STC ratings for glass types, but those would not indicate overall performance of a glass demountable wall system, which also includes trim and doors.

Materials that commonly utilize STC ratings include: glass, drywall, concrete blocks, plasterboard, windows, doors, etc.

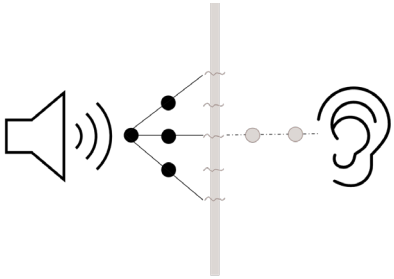


CAC—Ceiling Attenuation Class

Essentially an STC test but specific to ceiling materials. Single-number rating system; higher CAC ratings indicate better **sound isolation and reduced sound transmission** through an individual product.

Same as STC, CAC is tested for within a lab setting and often the material is sealed within a concrete structure to isolate sound transfer through the individual product. Doing so allows for test **results specific to the material**, but it does not account for installed application conditions.

Materials that commonly utilize CAC ratings include ceiling tiles and panels made of fiber, fiberglass, gypsum, metal, wood, etc.



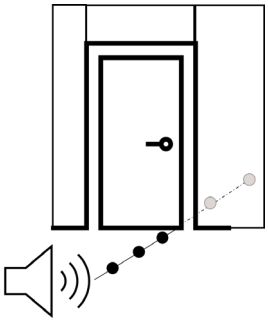
NRC—Noise Reduction Coefficient

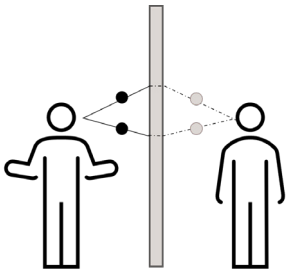
Single-number rating system; higher NRC ratings indicate better **sound absorption** within an individual product.

NRC is tested for within a lab setting. Doing so allows for test **results specific to the material**, but it does not account for installed application conditions.

Materials that commonly utilize NRC ratings include: acoustic panels, ceiling tiles, baffles, clouds, sound curtains, carpet, etc.

Common Terminology (Continued)





NIC—Noise Isolation Class

Single-number rating system; higher NIC ratings indicate better **sound isolation within a finished environment**.

NIC is tested for within a finished environment and is crucial for evaluating the effectiveness of soundproofing in actual spaces as it accounts for flanking paths (sound traveling around or over the partition/wall) and other real-world factors not captured in lab-based tests.

NIC tests for **sound isolation within a room** and **how sound is traveling** from room to room through the door, trim, glass, walls, etc.

SPC—Speech Privacy Class

Single-number rating system; higher SPC ratings indicate a higher level of **speech privacy within a finished environment**.

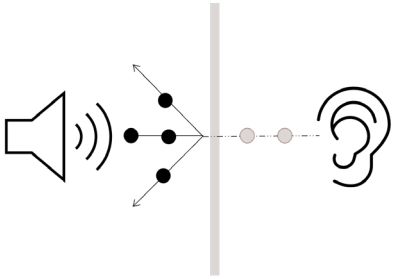
SPC is tested for within a finished environment and is crucial for evaluating the attenuation of human speech across a range of frequencies relevant to human conversation (typically 160 Hz to 5000 Hz). Unlike lab-based tests or NIC, SPC considers the impact of background noise (such as the natural hum of the space or sound masking) and its effect on speech intelligibility.

SPC tests for **intelligibility of sound from room to room or across a space**, not for the isolation of sound within a space (which would be NIC).

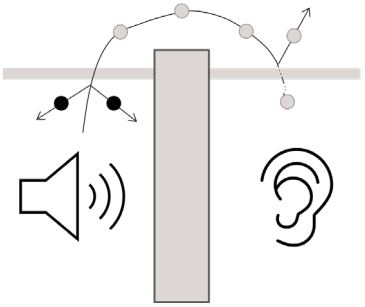
Comparing Acoustical Testing

	STC (Sound Transmission Class)	**CAC** (Ceiling Attenuation Class)	**NRC** (Noise Reduction Coefficient)	**NIC** (Noise Isolation Class)	**SPC** (Speech Privacy Class)
What It Is	Measures how well a building material or partition blocks airborne sound (e.g., talking, TV)	Measures how well ceiling systems block sound between rooms (esp. via shared plenum)	Measures how well a material absorbs sound (vs. reflects it)	Measures how much sound is prevented from traveling between rooms (room-to-room isolation); focuses on sound isolation	Measures the level of speech privacy within a closed room, particularly in office settings; focuses on intelligibility of sound
How It's Tested	Lab test of material secured within a concrete wall between two rooms	Lab test of material within a ceiling system and secured within concrete between two rooms	Lab test using a reverberation chamber to maximize echo	Field-test using actual rooms; includes the walls and individual components (doors, gaps)	Field-test using actual rooms; includes the walls and individual components (doors, gaps)
Pro	Can show quantifiable results for individual items to easily compare materials	Can show quantifiable results for individual items to easily compare materials	Simple number rating for easy comparison Great for open/shared spaces	Reflects real on-site performance More holistic as it accounts for flaws/gaps (ceilings, gaps, ducts, etc.)	Reflects real on-site performance Referenced in design standards for workplace acoustics and contributes to wellness certifications, such as WELL Building Standards
Con	Doesn't reflect field conditions Measures material vs. performance of material within a system/application	Doesn't reflect field conditions Measures component vs. performance of component within a system/application	Doesn't measure sound privacy taking into account other conditions Can be misunderstood as privacy metric	Performed within the actual building rather than by a material/component manufacturer, which requires on-site coordination and budget within the overall project	Performed within the actual building rather than by a material/component manufacturer, which requires on-site coordination and budget within the overall project
When to Use What	Used for comparing individual materials, oftentimes glass, for speech privacy	Used when evaluating acoustical ceiling tiles in open plenum layouts	Used when designing spaces to reduce echo or reverberation (like open offices)	Used to verify field performance of a space after construction	Use to verify field performance of a space after construction

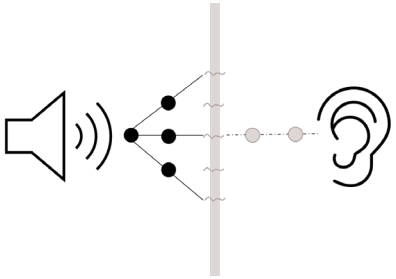
Identifying Through Conversation



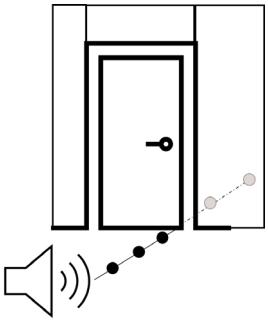
STC—Sound Transmission Class
"I need to ensure I am using materials that minimize sound travel between adjacent offices—is STC the right measurement for those materials?"



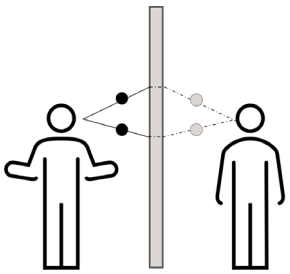
CAC—Ceiling Attenuation Class
"I'm trying to reduce noise transfer between offices with shared ceiling plenum space—would highly rated CAC materials help me with that?"



NRC—Noise Reduction Coefficient
"This open space is too loud and echoey—will NRC-rated materials help absorb sound?"



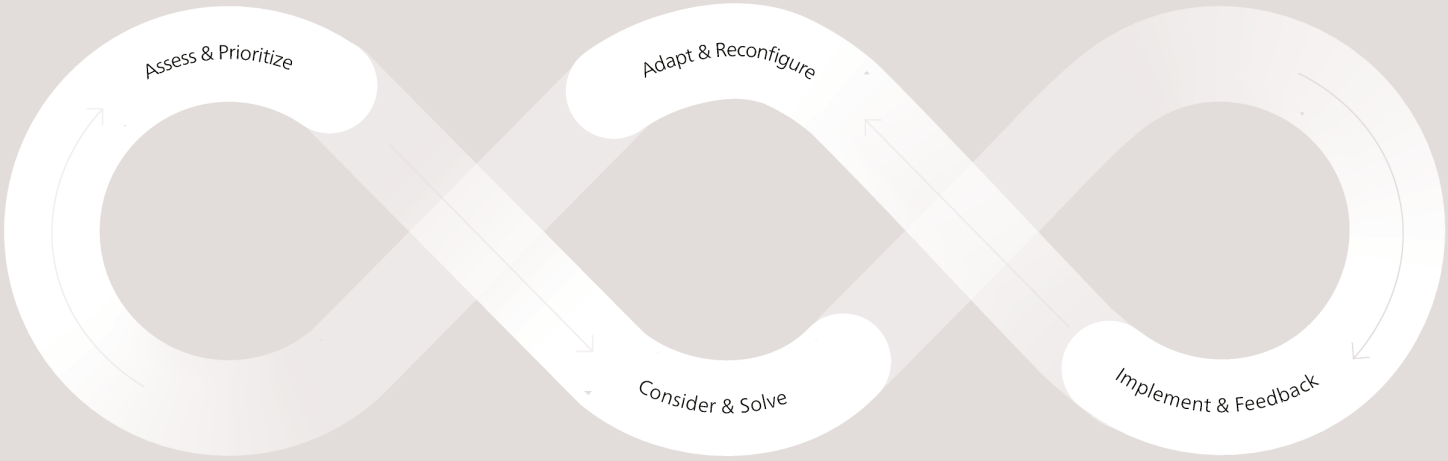
STC—Sound Transmission Class
"I want to verify if the finished construction delivers the expected sound isolation—would obtaining an NIC measurement be a good place to start?"



CAC—Ceiling Attenuation Class
"We need to ensure confidential discussions can't be overheard in adjacent spaces—is SPC the right test for speech privacy?"

Acoustic Design: Dimensions & Phases

How We Think About the Key Phases in Product Development



Key phases of considering product in the evolving workplace.

Allsteel's human-centric product considerations focuses on addressing real-world problems and meeting the needs of the way people want to work today and into the future.

"Instead of viewing elements in isolation, it's about gathering data, listening to employees and understanding the big picture. Reviewing and then acting on feedback will help create dynamic workplace experiences that enable employees to do their best work."

Emma Hendry, People Experience Managing Director for JLL Consulting

Assess & Prioritize

We begin by first understanding the key activities and behaviors of the space and link it to expectations for noise levels and sound performance. We work together with designers, engineers, specialists, and clients to identify what is working well, and where there is room for improvement and optimization.

Consider & Solve

Determine the root cause of the noise source to best formulate a solution. We attempt to understand the available options within our portfolio that may address needs and determine whether improvements are feasible to enhance the ability of the product to meet client expectations. When needed, we work to develop new products or source from reliable and expert partners.

Implement & Feedback

Collect feedback on product satisfaction through acoustical data collection and research, live environment testing, and input from our clients. We work to understand the implications of this input on user experience, wellness, and satisfaction. Additionally, we collect feedback on how utilization of spaces is changing and evolving, and understand implications of the expectations.

Adapt & Reconfigure

We learn from updated spaces and the latest research from outside experts, standards organizations, and from current acoustic data and make further improvements as needs change and evolve.

Designing For Your Space

Critical Questions for Space Design

What is the goal for this space?

How many people will be using this space?

From which direction(s) will people be talking?

What spaces are planned adjacent to it?

Do these adjacencies make sense not only for work flow but also for acoustic expectation?

How are you naming rooms?

Room names should imply acoustic function as tied to room use (huddle room vs. phone room—implies two different uses.

How do the walls, ceiling, floor, and furniture contribute holistically to noise and acoustics?

How much sound absorption material is required to meet the acoustic goals?

Are the expctations for a room/space to be completely silent? What are the expectations for speech privacy and dows that align with the layout of the spaces in the office?

For post-occupancy, is the utilization of spaces and settings as intended? If a space is being under-utilized, a potential cause is poor acoustics. Ask users for feedback specific to acoustics.

Critical Questions for Product Design

Every item within a space is contributing to either good acoustics (absorption) or bad acoustics (reverberation). How does this given element contribute?

What is the implied use for this product?

If user believes a product helps with acoustics, does it perform that function?

For example, a metal screen is highly cleanable and writable but does not help acoustically.

How can acoustic elements subtly support the overall design?

Considerations for Different Space Types

The way we work and the way we use the office differs across the floorplate. Because our expectations differ, acoustic design should not be the same for all spaces.

Here, we introduce several acoustic considerations based on space type.

Space Types: Overview

Solo

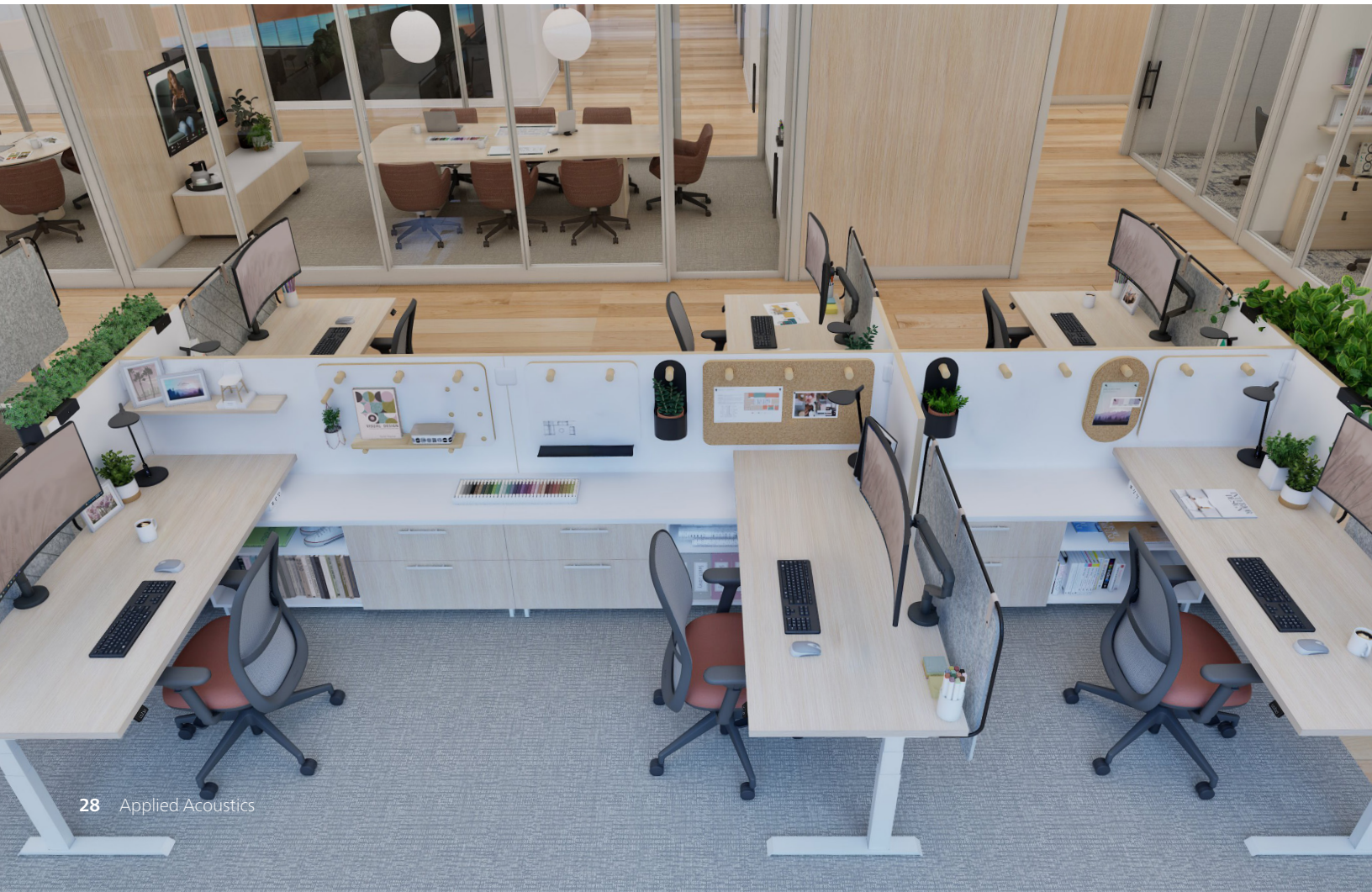
Gives the individual user control over how they work. To determine which applications and what attributes are most appropriate, a number of considerations should be reviewed including the range of activities and nature of tasks, level of visual and acoustical privacy needed, and power accessibility.

Team Neighborhood

Because work has become much more interdependent and collaborative, proper design is essential for these spaces. It's critical to uncover a team's most important group work activities—from intense to causal, tech-rich to conversation-rich, ad-hoc to planned, and quick to long project duration—to appropriately plan and provision the right mix of settings with the proper acoustics, containing noise producing activities and adjacencies.

Shared

Intended for use by the entire workforce (and their guests). Spaces that are hubs of activities need to accomplish many things, making adaptation important. Settings range from cafés and libraries or open social spaces like lobbies / reception areas. community spaces support meetings and learning, employee wellness, and socialization. The range of day-to-day activities should be considered when choosing appropriate acoustic solutions.



Solo:
Private Office

Private Office

Private offices may be assigned, shared by more than one person, or be free-address. The office may also be designed to double as a small meeting room that accommodates 2-3 workers.

Considerations for Private Office

- To control flutter echo (echos that occur in rapid succession) it is recommended that sound-absorptive materials be placed on the two perpendicular walls near the occupant.
- Ceiling-suspended elements are less effective for small rooms with sound-absorptive ceiling tiles.
- The room size and shape affect the acoustic performance. Materials are most efficient when they are evenly distributed within the room. For areas with concentrated wall treatments, install these as close to the occupant as possible.
- If using sound masking, take note that it may appear louder in these smaller environments. Placement of the speakers and volume is key.

Solo:
Touchdown

Touchdown

These alternative spaces give users additional options to work alone, with less visual or auditory stimulation while providing some measure of privacy. Typically adjacent to primary work areas, touchdown spaces enable users to quickly relocate from their desk to take a phone call or find a heads down space further away to prevent interruptions.

Considerations for Touchdown

- In smaller rooms, prioritize vertical absorptive materials over horizontal ceiling-suspended materials.
- Visual display privacy should also be noted. Absorptive elements can serve the purpose of acoustic control and visual privacy when hung along a sight line.
- Place acoustic elements so they are concentrated at the same height as the user's mouth. The preferred placement is in front of and to the side of the person speaking.
- An acoustic phenomenon called the "flutter effect" can happen in smaller rooms when sound reflects back and forth between flat parallel walls (think of a bouncy ball going back and forth). To control this it is recommended that sound absorptive materials be placed on two perpendicular walls within the plane of the mouth.

Shared:
Conference Room

Conference Room

Conference rooms are often designed for more structured meetings with teams and clients, so they may be somewhat fixed in their design and use. When organizations move to fewer private offices and more open workspaces, conference rooms take on added importance in the workplace.

Considerations for Conference Rooms

- A key factor is the quantity of highly sound-absorptive treatments in relationship with the room volume; the larger the room, the more materials are needed to control the reflected sound.
- The room size and shape affect the acoustic performance. Materials are most efficient when they are evenly distributed within the room. For areas with concentrated wall treatments, install these as close to the speaker or microphone as possible.
- Sound-absorptive finishes do not affect the sound transmission to adjacent rooms nor improve speech fidelity within the enclosed room only. Each space should be considered independently.
- Visual display privacy should also be noted. In some cases, absorptive elements can serve the purpose of acoustic control and visual privacy when hung along a sight line.

Shared:
Café & Flex Space

Café & Flex Space

Cafés are becoming destination areas that double as all-day meeting spaces. Projects often move faster toward more successful completion when people share knowledge and experience, get instant feedback, build trust and camaraderie, and profit from diverse ideas and points of view. A mix of different tables and seating – not to mention the proximity of food and drink – makes the café a great place to meet or socialize throughout the day.

Considerations for Café & Flex Spaces

- Cafés and flex spaces should design sound absorption around the most significant daily or weekly uses. The needs can change hour by hour, but most acoustic treatments are not very adjustable or flexible.
- Within open-plan spaces, carving out intimate spaces, such as booths, involves considering direct and reflect sound paths.

Shared:
Reception & Welcome

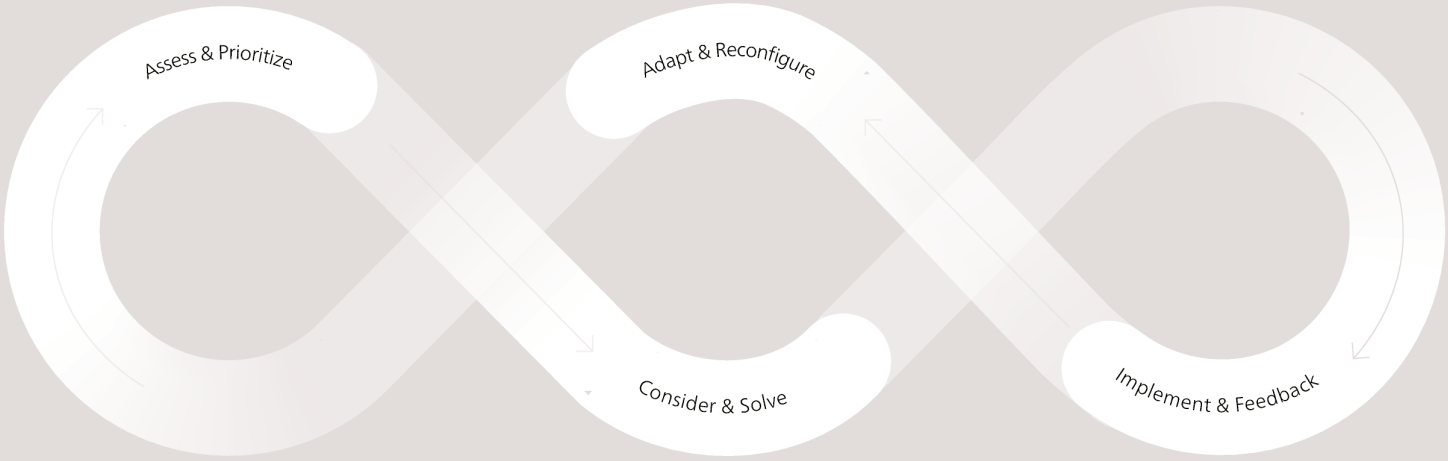
Reception & Welcome

Workspaces are including multi-purpose spaces designed to accommodate a variety of uses and groups of people. This includes spaces designed for group brainstorming or meetings, dedicated team project rooms, welcome and reception areas, and impromptu huddle spaces strategically placed throughout the floorplan.

Considerations for Reception & Welcome Spaces

- Ceiling-hung acoustic elements improve the localized performance and define the space, which can create a feeling of coziness.
- Floor-standing or ceiling-hung screening elements can provide psychological comfort of "protecting a user's back" with the added benefit of absorbing sound.
- Sound masking provides a balanced and consistent level of background noise that reduces distractions and improves privacy within the open-plan areas.

Moving Forward



Allsteel is committed to continuing to research, engage, and work with clients to develop effective acoustical products and spaces. As workplaces, activities, behaviors, and expectations evolve, Allsteel is here to support, listen to, and guide customers to real solutions.

Allsteel plans to share further insights and findings as we continue to research and learn with and from our clients and expert partners.

Share Your Experience

We would like to hear about your experiences with acoustics in your workplaces, especially as your workplace evolves. Please contact your Allsteel representative or dealer partner to share your insights.

Further Reading

- Allsteel Acoustics Insights →
- Allsteel Wellness Insights →
- Architectural Walls →
- Tenor Acoustics →
- Zilenzio →
- International Green Building Code →
- LEED →
- WELL Certified →

Allsteel is ready to help customers navigate this new reality and help organizations keep their employees at the center of their decisions on distributed work.

Need Help? Connect with Us →

Allsteel®