

# Innovation Award

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Vibration Control Products  
& Acoustic Floor Systems

The judges reviewed a wide range of projects for the innovation awards, assessing these separately from the specific category. They agreed that three projects stood out as deserving recognition for innovative techniques:

## Apex Acoustics

### *The APEAL Method*

#### *Acoustic Performance EvaluAtion through Listening*

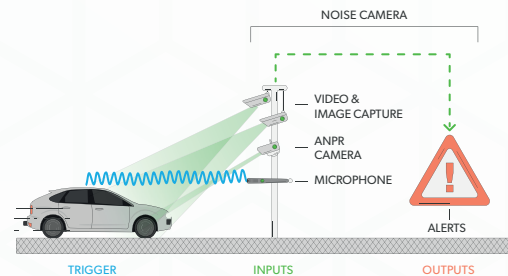
The Reading Room combines a wide variety of settings for individual study, collaboration and socialisation. The design enables conflicting uses in close proximity. The APEAL Method – Acoustic Performance EvaluAtion through Listening – is a way of capturing and reproducing the acoustic environment of a building in use, in a way that is aurally accurate. Taking a human-centred approach, APEAL enables acoustics to be part of a participatory design process, improving outcomes for stakeholders. This project illustrates how acoustics can be explained and demonstrated to those outside the sector. The technique can be used on other new buildings and allows the acoustic performance to be demonstrated by listening. It is a good example of presenting information about how a building will sound to the users and deserves recognition for the initiative in providing people with aural information.



## Atkins and Jacobs

### *Roadside Vehicle Noise Measurement*

This project was commissioned to research if there are reliable and robust ways of ascertaining noise emissions from an individual vehicle at the roadside which could then be used for enforcement purposes. The research included a technology trial on live carriageways of a prototype system developed for the project by acousticians that could potentially be used to identify and detect excessively noisy vehicles. Innovation in the bespoke use of a noise camera for an unusual task helped this project stand out. The judges noted that much of the work is research and the project is still at the concept stage with trials yet to come. In due course it will be interesting to see the method being trialled on location. The project set a high bar in terms of aims and addresses a need arising from legislative requirements.



## WSP

### *Hanover Square, London*

As well as winning the Vibration Prediction and Control Award 2020, this project also receives an Innovation Award. The developer at Hanover Square appointed the consultants to review vibration transmission into their over station development, which was to be constructed off a concrete structure spanning from two basement levels up to first floor level, onto which a steel frame was to be built. It was the innovative use of software which secures an innovation award for this project in addition to the vibration award. A bespoke method of evaluation was adopted by integrating the sound pressure results on the floor plate, surrounding surfaces and ceiling to determine the sound density from each radiating element over a given area. Delivering an excellent outcome for the client, removed the need for further investigation that might otherwise had required more use of the innovative approach to the software.

