

Education and Office Buildings Award

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engineering a quiet future



★ **Joint Winner:** Apex Acoustics, *One Strawberry Lane*

The project involved new build offices with the client seeking a very open and flexible space for employees to work in. The consultants noted that guidance and standards focus on acoustic factors for room acoustics which can only be achieved with high screens between workstations and high quantities of sound absorption on the soffit, walls and screens – something which would not have fitted in with the client’s expectations.

They focussed on a user-centric approach to open plan office design engaging with all stakeholders to strategically design a range of customisable acoustic zones, ensuring areas for protected quiet working, meeting rooms, private phone booths, a wide range of places to collaborate, and general open plan desks – on completion the Facilities Manager noted “I can always find a quiet place to work, even when the office is busy.”

This overall approach proves that occupant well-being and acoustic excellence can co-exist in a highly functional and acclaimed workspace which sets a new standard for the future of workplace acoustics – particularly identifying three key pillars of people and culture; acoustic space planning; and room

acoustic response. This was well received by the client with Head of Workspace saying “Their user-focused methodology ensured that despite the flexibility we desired, every single employee has the acoustic environment they need to thrive. We are delighted with the results.”

The judges praised the creativity of the design process in ensuring that different acoustic zones within the space met the different needs and that such an approach and the work involved with this went beyond current good practice. Along with the collaboration between the different stakeholders and the appreciation shown in the testimonials the judges agreed that this was a very interesting and innovative project.

ACOUSTIC AWARDS 2024

These awards demonstrate the unique skills of UK based acoustic consultants in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.