



CIPD

Wimbledon



Primary objectives

- Reduce distractions
- Comfort

Products used

- LogiSon sound masking
- Vibe

Scope of work

- Atrium

CIPD wanted to stop noise travelling to all four floors of an open plan building whose focal point was a large floor to roof atrium.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development is the professional body for those involved with the management and development of people. Their building in Wimbledon was designed to support cross-functional working and be environmentally friendly.

320 members of staff occupy four open plan floors, with a reception and library on the ground floor. The focal point is a large atrium, which is open to all floors. As staff primarily work on an individual basis with clients, key requirements are focus and concentration.

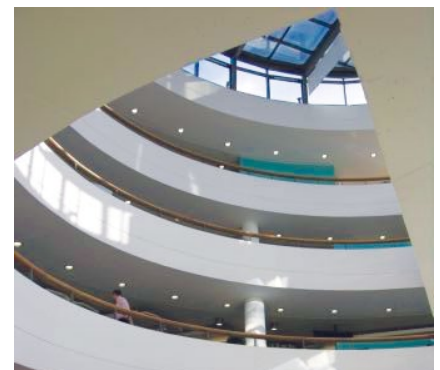
Noise in the open plan floors was the main issue; it was possible to clearly hear conversations between floors via the atrium, and the concrete ceiling reflected the sound on each

floor, which further increased speech intelligibility.

The solution offered by Acoustic Comfort for the four open plan floors was to use the large light fittings to house 40mm Rockwool, reducing reflected sound and absorbing the sound energy.

The market leading LogiSon Sound Masking system was installed to raise the background sound level, thus providing comfort and aiding concentration.

In the ground floor library sound masking was installed to reduce the distraction of the library users from visitors in reception. Strategically placed Vibe wall art reduces the reverberation from hard surfaces.



From the client

"The best comment that summarizes the result achieved by Acoustic Comfort came from a member of staff, who said they could no longer hear colleagues' phones ringing and this had previously been a huge distraction."

Dave Stanley
Head of Facilities

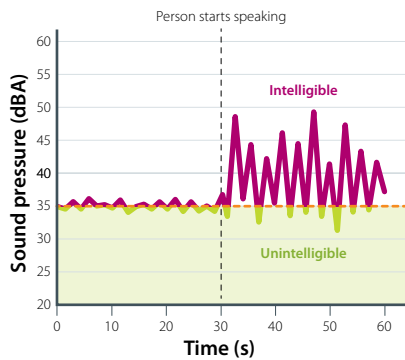
Sound level tests

Illustrative tests

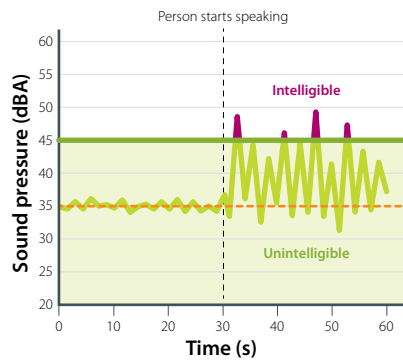
These example test results measure sound travelling across an open plan space.

- For both tests, a person was positioned at the same desk.
- Sound pressure measurements were taken at a distance of 12 metres from the desk.
- For the first half of each test, there was no speech.
- For the second half, the person at the desk spoke with a 'telephone speaking' voice.

Before treatment



After treatment



How sound masking works in open plan spaces

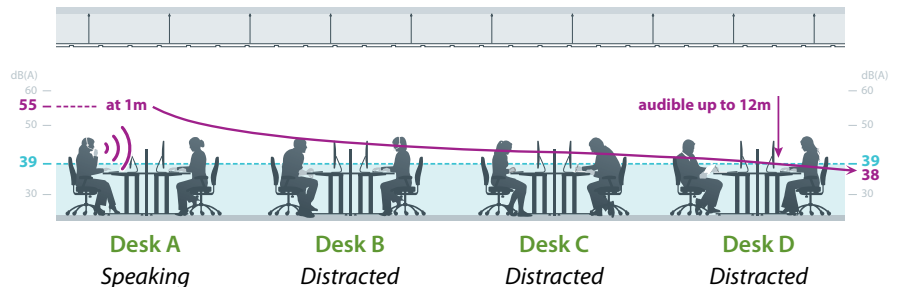
The problem

Low background noise level

Noise from an employee on the phone at desk A is distracting to employees at desks B, C and D who are trying to concentrate.

With no one talking background noise is measured at 39dB(A). Sound levels from the employee speaking at desk A are recorded at 55dB(A) at 1m distance and heard over 12 metres away at desk D at 38dB(A).

Without sound masking



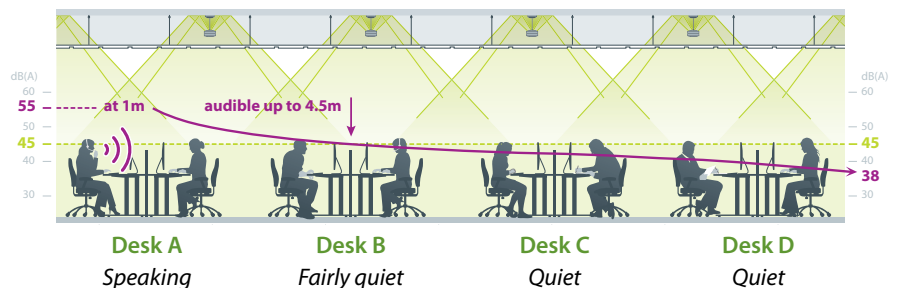
The solution

Raise the background noise level

To prevent conversations from travelling across the space the background noise level must be higher than the disruptive noise coming from desk A.

Adding sound masking raises the background noise level to 45dB(A), making conversations from desk A inaudible beyond desk B. In this example the distance at which conversations can be heard is cut from 12 to 4.5 metres.

With sound masking



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