

FIELD GUIDE

Absorb. Block. Cover.

A practical guide to office acoustics

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theofficeacousticscompany.com

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*For the architects, designers and builders who care how a space sounds,
not just how it looks.*

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Preface

When I first embarked on my career in acoustics, I was primarily focused on sound masking and its ability to create more private, comfortable environments. However, I quickly realized that the broader picture, incorporating sound absorption, blocking, and cover (sound masking), was key to mastering acoustic environments in any industry. This book outlines my practical approach to these core principles, the "ABCs" of room acoustics, which form the foundation for crafting spaces that enhance both privacy and well-being.

Throughout this guide, we'll explore how managing sound isn't just about controlling noise, but about creating environments where people can be productive, feel comfortable, and enjoy the benefits of a thoughtfully designed acoustic space.

This book is designed to guide professionals through the fundamentals of absorption, blocking, and covering as they relate to room acoustics. Each of these concepts plays a crucial role in creating sound environments that balance privacy, comfort, and function. In particular, this guide will explore how a holistic approach, combining all three, leads to acoustically optimized spaces where people can thrive.

By providing detailed methods for measuring room acoustics, selecting appropriate materials, and integrating sound masking, this book aims to demystify the acoustic design process for architects, consultants, and anyone passionate about creating better environments.

Having worked extensively in the field of acoustic design, I've witnessed firsthand the transformative impact that proper acoustic treatments can have on a space. Whether it's reducing noise in an open-plan office, improving speech privacy in healthcare settings, or balancing acoustics in educational facilities, I've had the privilege of working with many industries to fine-tune their acoustic environments.

This guide is a direct reflection of those experiences. In the chapters ahead, I'll share practical strategies for reducing reverberation through absorption, blocking unwanted sound transmission, and integrating sound masking to ensure privacy. These insights are drawn from years of collaboration with professionals across industries and are meant to serve as a resource for those looking to create more effective acoustic environments.

CHAPTER 1

The Role of Acoustics in Modern Environments

Acoustics play a fundamental role in shaping our experiences within modern environments. Whether in offices, hospitals, schools, or homes, sound profoundly impacts how we interact with spaces. Managing sound has become a key consideration in modern design, especially as open layouts and multipurpose spaces become the norm.

The Psychological and Physiological Impact of Sound

- **Stress and Productivity.** In high-noise environments like open-plan offices, constant background noise can elevate stress levels, leading to reduced productivity and poor well-being. Noise-induced stress triggers the release of cortisol, which impairs concentration and increases fatigue.

EXAMPLE

In my experience, employees in noisy, acoustically untreated offices take longer to complete focused work and report more frustration than those working in spaces with effective sound control.

- **Sleep and Recovery.** In healthcare settings, noise can disturb patient rest, prolonging recovery times. A quiet, acoustically balanced environment promotes restful sleep, which is essential for healing.

The Evolution of Space Design

- **Open-Plan Spaces.** As workplaces and educational institutions have shifted towards open layouts to promote collaboration, the demand for acoustic management has grown. Without proper sound control, these spaces often suffer from poor speech privacy and heightened distractions.

- **Minimalism and Hard Surfaces.** Modern design trends favor materials like concrete, glass, and metal, which reflect sound and exacerbate noise issues. While visually appealing, these materials create spaces prone to echo and reverberation unless treated with absorptive materials.

Addressing the Challenges of Open Layouts

- Open spaces increase the risk of sound waves traveling unchecked, creating distractions. The **ABC approach**: Absorption, Blocking, and Covering, is essential to mitigate these challenges. Each element plays a distinct role in managing sound:
- **Absorption.** reduces internal reverberation.
- **Blocking.** prevents sound from traveling between rooms.
- **Covering.** (sound masking) introduces background noise to enhance privacy.

Real-World Applications

- **Corporate Spaces.** Employees in open-plan offices are frequently interrupted by the noise of phone calls and conversations. When these offices introduce absorptive ceiling tiles, soundproof partitions, and sound masking, the environment becomes more conducive to focus and collaboration.
- **Healthcare Environments.** In hospitals, managing sound is critical for both patient care and privacy. Absorptive panels, soundproofing between exam rooms, and sound masking in hallways create a more restful and confidential atmosphere for patients and staff.

The takeaway

- Acoustic planning is as essential as visual design in modern environments. Whether it's a quiet study room or a bustling workplace, sound affects how we perceive and interact with spaces. Integrating absorption, blocking, and covering ensures these environments are functional, comfortable, and conducive to their intended purpose.

CHAPTER 2

Measuring Room Acoustics: The ABC Approach

Effective acoustic design starts with measurement. Understanding how sound behaves within a space allows us to tailor solutions to control noise, enhance privacy, and improve comfort. In this chapter, we will cover the core metrics that inform sound management and how these measurements guide the application of absorption, blocking, and covering.

Key Acoustic Metrics

- **Reverberation Time (RT60).** The time it takes for sound to decay by 60 decibels after the source stops. Reverberation time is a key indicator of how “live” or “dead” a room sounds. In spaces like classrooms, where speech clarity is critical, lower RT60 values are desired.
- **Ideal RT60.** For offices and classrooms, RT60 values of 0.6 to 0.8 seconds are ideal for clear communication, while for music performance spaces, values of 1.5 to 2 seconds are preferred.
- **Sound Transmission Class (STC).** A measure of how well walls, floors, or ceilings block sound from traveling between spaces. Higher STC ratings indicate better sound isolation, which is critical for spaces like meeting rooms or private offices.
- **Typical STC Ratings.** An STC rating of 50 means normal speech is not intelligible, while an STC rating of 60 offers excellent privacy for sensitive conversations.
- **Noise Criterion (NC).** A standard used to quantify acceptable levels of background noise, particularly from mechanical systems like HVAC units. Lower NC ratings (20-30) are needed for quiet spaces like libraries, while higher NC ratings (35-40) are acceptable in more active environments.

Tools for Measuring Acoustics

- **Decibel (dB) Meters.** Measure sound pressure levels in a space, indicating how loud or quiet the environment is.
- **Reverberation Meters.** Used to calculate RT60, allowing acousticians to understand the extent of sound persistence in a room.
- **STC Testing Equipment.** Measures the sound transmission between two rooms, helping to determine if walls and ceilings provide sufficient soundproofing.

Interpreting Data

- **Optimizing RT60.** If reverberation times are too long, applying absorptive materials like acoustic panels or ceiling tiles will reduce sound reflection, improving clarity.
- **Improving STC.** If sound is leaking between rooms, additional mass (e.g., adding layers of drywall) or decoupling methods (e.g., staggered studs) will raise STC ratings.
- **Controlling NC.** Excessive background noise from HVAC systems can be addressed by insulating ducts, using vibration isolators, or masking the noise with sound masking systems.

Using Data to Inform Acoustic Design

- By gathering data on reverberation time, sound transmission, and background noise levels, designers can create acoustically optimized spaces tailored to their purpose. The data informs whether to prioritize absorption, blocking, or covering solutions.

The takeaway

- Acoustic measurements provide a roadmap for creating functional, comfortable environments. From quiet libraries to bustling offices, understanding the sound landscape allows for the strategic application of absorptive materials, soundproofing barriers, and sound masking to achieve acoustic balance.

CHAPTER 3

Absorption: Reducing Reverberation and Echo

Absorption is the first and most fundamental principle of acoustic control. By reducing reverberation and echo, absorptive materials help ensure that sound is clear, controlled, and not overwhelming. This chapter will explore the science behind absorption and its practical applications in various environments.

The Science of Absorption

- **Sound Waves and Reflection.** When sound strikes a hard surface, such as a wall or ceiling, it bounces back into the room. This reflection creates reverberation, which can make speech unintelligible and increase overall noise levels.
- **Absorptive Materials.** Materials with high absorption coefficients, like acoustic foam or mineral wool, convert sound energy into heat, reducing the amount of sound that is reflected back into the room.

Types of Absorptive Materials

- **Porous Absorbers.** These materials, like fiberglass or acoustic foam, are excellent for absorbing high-frequency sounds (e.g., voices, office chatter). They are ideal for controlling mid-range and high frequencies in environments like offices or classrooms.
- **Resonant Absorbers.** Designed to trap low-frequency sounds, these absorbers are often used in recording studios or music venues to manage bass tones.
- **Hybrid Solutions.** Some acoustic panels combine porous and resonant absorption, providing broad-spectrum sound control suitable for multi-purpose spaces.

Applications of Absorption in Different Spaces

- **Offices.** In open-plan offices, ceiling tiles and wall panels reduce noise caused by conversations and office equipment. By reducing reverberation, these materials improve speech intelligibility and reduce distractions.
- **Healthcare.** In hospitals, absorption materials in patient rooms help reduce noise from medical equipment and conversations, creating a more restful environment conducive to recovery.
- **Education.** Classrooms benefit from absorptive ceiling tiles and wall panels, which reduce echo and improve speech clarity, allowing students to focus better and hear the instructor clearly.

Designing for Absorption

- Absorptive materials must be strategically placed to control reverberation effectively. Ceiling tiles and suspended clouds can be installed in large, open spaces, while wall-mounted panels are effective in smaller rooms. The goal is to reduce reverberation without making the room feel too acoustically "dead."

EXAMPLE

In a university lecture hall, applying absorptive panels to the back walls reduced echo and ensured that students in the back could hear the instructor as clearly as those in the front.

Balancing Absorption with Aesthetics

- Modern absorptive materials are available in a variety of designs and finishes, allowing designers to incorporate acoustic solutions without sacrificing aesthetics. Acoustic panels can be customized to blend with a room's decor while still providing effective sound control.

The takeaway

- Absorption is a critical element in reducing noise and improving sound quality. Whether in offices, classrooms, or hospitals, strategic placement of absorptive materials ensures that sound is controlled, making spaces more functional and comfortable.

CHAPTER 4

Blocking: Stopping Sound Transmission Between Spaces

Blocking focuses on preventing sound from traveling between spaces. Whether in a home, office, or healthcare facility, ensuring that conversations remain private and that noise doesn't travel between rooms is a fundamental goal of acoustic design.

The Physics of Sound Transmission

- Sound travels through walls, ceilings, and floors, particularly when these barriers are lightweight or poorly insulated. **Blocking** sound effectively requires increasing the mass and density of these barriers to prevent sound from passing through.
- **Sound Leaks.** Weak points, such as gaps around windows, doors, and ductwork, allow sound to leak through even high-STC walls. Sealing these points is critical to effective sound blocking.

Strategies for Sound Blocking

- **Mass and Density.** The denser a material, the better it blocks sound. Walls made of concrete or multiple layers of drywall provide higher STC ratings than standard partition walls.
- **Decoupling.** Separating two sides of a wall prevents sound vibrations from traveling through solid connections. This is done through staggered stud walls, resilient channels, or floating floors.
- **Damping Compounds.** Materials like Green Glue, applied between layers of drywall, absorb sound vibrations, further reducing sound transmission.

STC Ratings and Their Importance

- **Sound Transmission Class (STC).** measures how well a barrier stops sound. An STC rating of 50 ensures that normal conversation can't be overheard, while STC ratings above 60 offer excellent speech privacy for confidential discussions.

EXAMPLE

A law office increased the STC rating of its conference rooms by adding soundproof insulation and solid-core doors, ensuring that sensitive legal conversations couldn't be overheard.

Limitations of Sound Blocking

- While blocking sound between rooms is essential for privacy, it doesn't address sound within the room. Even with high-STC walls, internal reverberation can still make conversations loud and intelligible across the room. This is where **sound masking** comes into play.

EXAMPLE

In a financial institution, adding soundproof barriers between meeting rooms ensured that conversations between clients and financial advisors remained private. However, sound masking was also necessary to prevent conversations within the room from being overheard.

Common Applications of Blocking

- **Offices.** Ensuring confidentiality in meeting rooms or executive offices by using soundproof walls and solid-core doors.
- **Healthcare.** Preventing sound from traveling between patient rooms or exam rooms, where privacy is critical for patient comfort and compliance with regulations like HIPAA.
- **Multi-Family Residences.** Blocking sound between apartment units to reduce noise complaints and improve the quality of life for tenants.

The takeaway

- Blocking is critical for creating private, quiet spaces where sound needs to be contained. By increasing the mass and density of barriers, decoupling structures, and sealing gaps, sound transmission between rooms is minimized, ensuring privacy and acoustic comfort.

CHAPTER 5

Covering: Enhancing Privacy with Sound Masking

The third element of the ABCs of room acoustics, **Covering**, involves the strategic use of **sound masking** to enhance privacy and reduce distractions. While absorption reduces internal noise and blocking controls sound transmission between rooms, covering with sound masking fills in the gaps by ensuring that conversations remain unintelligible to unintended listeners. Sound masking helps create a more consistent acoustic environment, making it an essential tool in settings where speech privacy and focus are critical.

Through my work over the years, I've seen how sound masking has been integrated across industries to solve acoustic challenges, from corporate offices to healthcare facilities. In this chapter, we'll focus on how sound masking fits into the holistic approach of absorption, blocking, and covering.

How Sound Masking Works

At its core, sound masking introduces a subtle, ambient background sound into a space, which is carefully engineered to match the frequencies of human speech. This added sound reduces the intelligibility of conversations, making them harder to hear from a distance.

- **Key Principle.** Rather than eliminating noise, sound masking adjusts the acoustic environment by making speech unintelligible past a certain range. This preserves the natural soundscape while providing a layer of privacy.

EXAMPLE

In an open office, sound masking ensures that employees can collaborate freely without their conversations carrying across the room, improving focus and privacy without the need for physical barriers.

- **Why Not Silence?.** One of the most common misconceptions about sound masking is that complete silence is the goal. In reality, total silence can often amplify even the smallest noises, like a phone vibrating or someone typing, which can become more distracting. Sound masking creates a “comfortably noisy” environment, where these distractions are less noticeable.

Applications of Sound Masking

Sound masking can be applied in a variety of environments where speech privacy and focus are paramount. It is especially useful in spaces where absorption and blocking alone cannot sufficiently address the acoustic challenges.

Corporate Offices

- Open-plan offices are notorious for noise distractions and lack of privacy. Sound masking ensures that conversations remain contained, reducing the likelihood of unintended eavesdropping. This creates a balanced work environment where collaboration and focus coexist.

EXAMPLE

In a multinational corporation, sound masking in open areas allowed employees to engage in discussions without their conversations disrupting neighboring colleagues, improving both productivity and morale.

Healthcare Settings

- Patient confidentiality is critical in healthcare, and sound masking plays a crucial role in protecting sensitive conversations between patients and healthcare providers. Whether in waiting rooms or exam rooms, sound masking ensures that conversations are not overheard by others, helping to maintain HIPAA compliance.

EXAMPLE

In a busy hospital, sound masking in hallways and reception areas ensured that patients’ discussions with nurses and doctors remained private, even in shared spaces.

Libraries and Study Areas

- Libraries, traditionally quiet spaces, often face the challenge of balancing silent study areas with collaborative workspaces. Sound masking helps create a controlled environment where students can focus without being disturbed by occasional conversations or footsteps.

How Sound Masking Complements Absorption and Blocking

Sound masking doesn't work in isolation; it's most effective when used alongside **absorption** and **blocking**. While absorptive materials minimize internal reverberation and blocking prevents sound from traveling between rooms, sound masking addresses speech privacy within open or shared spaces.

- **Absorption.** reduces the overall noise level in a space by absorbing sound energy and preventing it from reflecting off hard surfaces. This creates a quieter environment but doesn't necessarily make conversations less intelligible.
- **Blocking.** physically stops sound from moving between rooms, providing isolation. However, even with the best barriers, internal sounds, like conversations, can still travel within the same room.
- **Covering (Sound Masking).** steps in to fill the gaps, providing speech privacy by masking the intelligibility of conversations. This creates a sense of acoustic balance where people can converse comfortably without fear of being overheard.

EXAMPLE

In a high-end law firm, where client confidentiality is paramount, blocking measures were installed to prevent sound from traveling between offices, while sound masking within the rooms ensured that even internal discussions remained private and unintelligible to others in close proximity.

The Privacy Index

A useful measure of speech privacy is the **Privacy Index (PI)**, which indicates how well a space protects conversations. Higher PI scores mean that conversations are less likely to be overheard. Sound masking systems help spaces achieve high PI scores by reducing the clarity of speech, making it difficult for unintended listeners to understand what's being said.

Improving Privacy in Open Spaces

- In open-plan offices, sound masking raises the PI, ensuring that conversations at one workstation aren't easily understood from another. This boosts overall productivity and creates a more comfortable work environment.

EXAMPLE

A large tech firm noticed a significant improvement in employee focus after implementing sound masking. Conversations in meeting rooms and workstations were less distracting, and employees reported feeling more comfortable engaging in private discussions.

Healthcare Applications of PI

- Sound masking in hospitals and clinics significantly improves patient privacy by raising the PI in shared spaces, such as reception areas and examination rooms.

EXAMPLE

After installing sound masking, a busy clinic reported fewer patient complaints about overheard conversations, with staff noting a marked improvement in the overall acoustic comfort of the space.

Conclusion: Sound Masking as Part of a Holistic Acoustic Strategy

In my previous book, *Quiet by Design: How Sound Masking Protects Privacy and Focus in Every Industry*, I explored the power of sound masking to transform environments across industries. The lessons from that book resonate here, as sound masking remains a critical component of a comprehensive acoustic strategy. When used in conjunction with absorption and blocking, sound masking fills in the final gap, ensuring privacy, focus, and comfort in any environment.

By integrating all three elements, absorption, blocking, and covering, we can create spaces that not only function effectively but also enhance the user experience. Whether in a bustling corporate office, a serene healthcare clinic, or a collaborative educational space, the thoughtful application of sound masking

ensures that privacy is maintained, distractions are minimized, and people feel more comfortable in their surroundings.

CHAPTER 6

Integrating Sound Masking with Acoustic Treatments

In this chapter, we focus on how **absorption, blocking, and covering** work together to create comprehensive acoustic environments. Each method addresses a specific aspect of sound control, and when integrated, they result in balanced, comfortable spaces optimized for productivity, privacy, and well-being.

Combining the ABCs of Acoustic Design

- Each element of the ABC approach: Absorption, Blocking, and Covering, addresses a different dimension of sound control.
- **Absorption.** reduces reverberation within the room, preventing excessive echo.
- **Blocking.** ensures that external noise doesn't enter or escape the space, providing physical sound isolation.
- **Covering (sound masking).** adds a subtle background sound that masks unwanted noise and improves speech privacy.

EXAMPLE

In a busy open-plan office, absorptive ceiling panels reduce internal reverberation, partitions with high STC ratings block sound from traveling between workstations, and a sound masking system ensures conversations don't disrupt concentration.

Absorption: Reducing Internal Noise

- **Role in Integrated Design.** Absorptive materials, like ceiling tiles, wall panels, and carpets, help reduce the reverberation time (RT60) in a space. This makes conversations more intelligible and less overwhelming in shared areas.

- **Absorptive Solutions in Different Environments.** From boardrooms to classrooms, properly applied absorption ensures that sound energy doesn't reflect excessively off hard surfaces, improving communication and comfort.

Blocking: Preventing Sound Transmission

- **Role in Integrated Design.** Sound blocking is crucial for spaces where confidentiality and privacy are paramount, such as offices, healthcare rooms, and conference areas. Using walls with high STC ratings, sealing gaps around doors, and incorporating soundproof windows ensures sound stays contained.

Covering: Enhancing Speech Privacy and Comfort

- **Role in Integrated Design.** Sound masking fills in the gaps left by absorption and blocking. Even in a room with excellent sound isolation, conversations can still be heard within the space, potentially compromising privacy. By adding a subtle masking sound, you can ensure that conversations are less intelligible to unintended listeners.

Examples of Sound Masking Integration

- **Corporate Office.** Absorption materials reduce overall noise, high-STC partitions block sound transmission, and sound masking ensures employees can have confidential conversations without worrying about being overheard.

Balancing the Three Techniques

- **Scenario 1: Corporate Environment.** Open offices benefit most from absorption to reduce reverberation, blocking to maintain privacy between spaces, and sound masking to ensure focus and confidentiality in a collaborative environment.
- **Scenario 2: Healthcare Facility.** Hospitals and clinics use absorptive ceiling tiles to create a quieter, more restful atmosphere, while blocking and masking systems protect patient privacy and reduce stress in high-traffic areas.

The takeaway

- Integrating absorption, blocking, and covering provides a comprehensive acoustic solution for any environment. Each technique addresses a unique sound-related issue, and together they form the backbone of effective acoustic management, ensuring comfort, privacy, and productivity.

CHAPTER 7

Practical Case Studies in Absorption, Blocking, and Covering

This chapter explores real-world examples of spaces where absorption, blocking, and covering were used effectively. Through practical case studies, we'll illustrate how integrating all three methods results in optimal environments for industries ranging from healthcare to corporate offices.

Case Study 1: Corporate Headquarters: Balancing Collaboration and Privacy

- **Overview.** A large multinational corporation sought to redesign its open-plan headquarters to balance collaboration with the need for speech privacy. The primary challenge was maintaining a dynamic, interactive environment without overwhelming employees with noise.

Acoustic Solutions

- **Absorption.** The design included absorptive ceiling panels and sound-absorbing partitions to reduce overall reverberation.
- **Blocking.** High-STC-rated walls were installed around executive offices and meeting rooms to ensure confidentiality during sensitive discussions.
- **Covering.** A comprehensive sound masking system was implemented throughout the open-plan office to reduce distractions and enhance privacy.
- **Results.** Employee productivity increased, and surveys showed a marked reduction in noise complaints. The integration of absorption, blocking, and covering created a balanced, functional workspace.

Case Study 2: Healthcare Facility: Ensuring Patient Comfort and Confidentiality

- **Overview.** A hospital was undergoing renovation and wanted to improve patient privacy and comfort, especially in high-traffic areas like waiting rooms and treatment rooms.

Acoustic Solutions

- **Absorption.** Absorptive ceiling tiles and wall panels were installed to reduce the noise of medical equipment and foot traffic in hallways.
- **Blocking.** Patient rooms were outfitted with walls that achieved high STC ratings to ensure conversations between patients and healthcare providers were private.
- **Covering.** A sound masking system was added to hallways and waiting areas to ensure that patient conversations were not overheard by others nearby.
- **Results.** The hospital saw improved patient satisfaction scores, with many patients commenting on the enhanced comfort and privacy. Staff also noted that noise levels were much lower, even during busy periods.

Case Study 3: Educational Facility: Enhancing Learning Through Acoustic Design

- **Overview.** A university sought to improve acoustics in its large lecture halls and collaborative study spaces. The primary goal was to ensure that students could clearly hear instructors while minimizing distractions during group work.

Acoustic Solutions

- **Absorption.** Acoustic panels were installed on the walls and ceilings of lecture halls to reduce reverberation and improve speech intelligibility.
- **Blocking.** Soundproof partitions were used between study rooms to ensure that group discussions didn't disturb others in adjacent spaces.
- **Covering.** Sound masking was introduced in study zones.

Conclusion

The **ABCs of room acoustics: Absorb, Block, and Cover**, form the foundation of effective acoustic design. Each element targets a specific aspect of sound control: **Absorption** reduces internal noise and reverberation, **Blocking** prevents sound from traveling between spaces, and **Covering** (sound masking) enhances speech privacy and reduces distractions. By thoughtfully integrating these three components into any space, we can address both the functional and emotional needs of the environment.

- **Functionality.** Spaces designed with the ABCs in mind are optimized for their specific use, whether it's improving speech intelligibility in a classroom, ensuring confidentiality in a healthcare setting, or reducing distractions in an office. Absorptive materials reduce unnecessary noise, blocking measures ensure sound doesn't travel where it shouldn't, and covering provides an essential layer of privacy.
- **Comfort.** Acoustic design is not just about reducing noise; it's about creating environments where people feel comfortable. Properly designed spaces are calmer, less stressful, and more conducive to productivity, collaboration, or relaxation. Absorption and covering work together to soften a room's acoustics, making it feel balanced and inviting.
- **Privacy.** Privacy is critical in many modern environments, from confidential corporate discussions to patient-doctor consultations in healthcare. Blocking sound transmission and employing sound masking ensures that sensitive information remains confidential, creating trust and security within the space.
- **Acoustic Optimization.** Spaces that integrate the ABCs of room acoustics are holistically optimized. The layering of sound control techniques ensures that every acoustic challenge is addressed, whether it's reverberation, sound transmission, or speech privacy. The result is an environment that performs at its best, regardless of its function.

By focusing on absorption, blocking, and covering, acoustic design becomes not just a technical consideration but an essential element of a space's overall

experience. When these three principles are combined effectively, they transform any room into an environment that is acoustically balanced, productive, and ultimately more enjoyable to be in.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Alex Vargo

Alex Vargo is the founder of The Office Acoustics Company and has spent more than 25 years in office technology and acoustics. He specializes in creating more private, productive, and comfortable spaces through the intelligent use of sound absorption, blocking, and masking. Alex has worked with a wide range of clients, from healthcare facilities to corporate offices, transforming spaces with a focus on speech privacy and acoustic balance. This book brings together his practical experience in creating spaces that sound as good as they look.

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