

The Sound of Silence: Designing Wall, Ceiling and Door Solutions for Optimal Acoustic Comfort in Residential and Commercial Applications



AACA Competency: Design 4.6

Module Outline: Acoustic design is often ignored or relegated to an afterthought in modern architecture. However, the way a building performs acoustically has a huge impact on how it is experienced by its users. Good acoustics has been associated with improved health, learning outcomes and enjoyment, whilst poor acoustics has been associated with conflict, stress, anxiety and other health issues. Considering these factors, designing for good acoustics is paramount, but many designers believe they must sacrifice aesthetics in order to achieve good acoustics. In this module, we provide practical ways to design spaces which perform better acoustically but don't detract from – and in some cases enhance – room aesthetics.

Good acoustic design delivers health and wellbeing benefits to users of commercial and residential buildings but is often overlooked. In this module, we show how to design for acoustics whilst retaining aesthetics.

Learning Objectives:

1. Improve understanding of building acoustics theory and practice 3.3 & 3.4
2. Understand key solutions for achieving acoustic solutions in walls, ceilings, and doors 3.2

Module Presenter: Mark Micallef has over 15 years' experience in technical sales and management roles in the building industry working with some of Australia's leading building materials manufacturers. Mark is an expert in acoustics, thermal comfort, and indoor environmental quality, with formal training in Australia and abroad, and had been involved in a design and construction capacity on many of Australia's largest building projects, including Barangaroo, Perth Children's Hospital, Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Melbourne University School of Architecture, Eureka Tower and Melbourne 108. Mark holds an MBA from RMIT University and a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) from Victoria University, in addition to several formal and informal qualifications in building and construction-based subjects.

Duration: 1 hour

1 Formal
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