MechSE *WELL*ness

S04 Sound Absorption

Intent: Design spaces that support speech intelligibility and are conducive to focus.

In spaces that incorporate hard surface finish materials, such as tables surfaces and tiled floor, reverberation times and reflected sound energy have the potential to build and create uncomfortable environments. In a classroom for instance, low reverberation time is essential to foster clear speech intelligibility and yet high enough to project to all areas of the classroom.

Impact: Proper design can improve occupant comfort in terms of critical listening, speech projection, memory retention, and speech privacy.

What are the requirements to earn this credit?

1. The design architect ensures that all designers provide equipment and construction methods that meet reverberation time thresholds indicated in the WELL Standard for individual RT(60) values in distinct space types ranging from 0.6 to 1.0.
2. The design architect implements sound reducing ceilings throughout the project with NRC value of 0.7 for at least 75% of available ceiling area.
3. The design architect implements sound reducing vertical surfaces with NRC value of 0.7 for at least 25% of one wall in a room.

How is MechSE accomplishing these requirements?

We rely on our design architect to implement design choices and features that meet the above criteria. While in construction, shop drawings of specific products was provided by the contractors and reviewed by the design architect to meet specified criteria. As noted in quite a few of our classrooms, acoustical treatment is along the walls to help reduce reverberation times and produce a more pleasant learning environment. Those that do not have acoustical treatment do not require it to maintain the thresholds noted above.

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