



Acoustics Considerations

Becker Morgan Group Emphasizes the Importance of Acoustics in Hotel Design

We've all been there, you're traveling and exhausted, you can't wait to put your head down on the pillow and you can hear everything going on in the room next door or worse you are in the room next to the elevator or mechanical system. Your good night's sleep just turned into a night of tossing and turning. The unwanted noise and disruptions can derail any positive aspects of your stay.

As hotel owners, operators, and developers you are constantly putting your guest experience first. As architects for the hospitality industry, so are we. We pay close attention to acoustics throughout the design and construction phases to ensure your future guests rest easy. We work with you to meet or exceed hotel franchise guidelines for STC ratings. All of which leads to happy customers, improved reviews, and repeat patrons.

Key Design Elements to Improve Acoustics

Amenities

Pools, fitness centers, and hotel bars attract numerous guests at one time and create noisy environments. Strategically placing amenities within your hotel can reduce unwanted noise in guest rooms. When possible, the pool shouldn't have rooms above it and the fitness center shouldn't be located directly above guest rooms.



Site

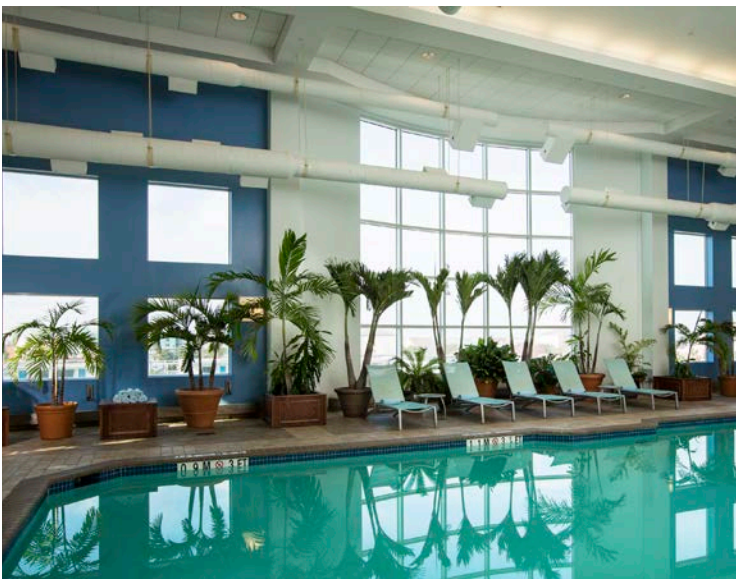
Understanding your site and external noise pollution sources is important to determine the layout of your hotel. Once key external noise threats are identified the design team can utilize an arsenal of tools to combat the noise. Highways are common disruptions to guests; the orientation of the building can reduce the number of highway-facing rooms. For rooms that hug a major roadway, material selection can reduce the hum of the highway. You should consider the distance from the highway when designing your site, if you have the flexibility your hotel should be located with as much distance as possible. Aside from building design and placement strategic location of mature vegetation on the site can reduce external noise.





Utilities

Large mechanical and plumbing systems are noisy, to ensure heavy equipment does not interfere with the guest experience your design team should mount equipment on specialty-designed vibration absorption platforms. For highway-facing rooms, ducted air intakes should be used to avoid external noise transmission.



Materials

Once you have designed a floorplan that naturally reduces noise in each guest room, material selection becomes the MVP for acoustic performance. Your design team will evaluate each material for its sound transmission coefficient (STC) and find materials to maximize the budget and reduce sound transmission. Upgraded windows, additional layers of drywall and, acoustic panels can all be used to reduce noise in areas of concern.

On the onset of any project, we recommend working with an Acoustical Consultant through your design team to identify areas of concern through a Noise Analysis. Once these areas are identified key design elements can offset noise threats and create a welcoming and quiet environment for guests.