

ACOUSTIC AWARDS 2023

Now in their 10th year, the ANC awards highlight the unique skills of UK based acoustic and noise professionals, and the dynamic and diverse nature of the industry overall, to inspire the next generation of acoustic consultants. These accolades demonstrate excellence among ANC members in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.

Education & Office Buildings

JOINT WINNERS • **Ramboll: The Community Hub**
and **Apex Acoustics: Dogger Bank Windfarm Facility**

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The Community Hub - Ramboll

The project involved the complete refurbishment of common areas of a Grade-1 listed building, the demolition of a 1970s building, and the construction of a contemporary social centre. The building suffered complaints regarding acoustics due to activity noise and reverberation while in use. The consultants developed project-specific acoustic performance standards by engaging with the client and understanding the limitations of the previous space.

There were technical challenges relating to room acoustics, sound insulation challenges where interventions were limited due to the listed nature of the building and building services noise challenges on a constrained site.

The judges were impressed by a project that set out to fix a noise issue, This was a very neatly delivered piece of work.

The architects noted that:

"one of the main issues that the client brief identified with the previous facility was that the acoustics were terrible; it was difficult to communicate without shouting and there was noise transfer from the bar into the living accommodation above. The design of the new dining room and refurbishment of the café and bar areas successfully solved all acoustic issues and the College community are delighted with the result."

Dogger Bank Windfarm Facility - Apex Acoustics

The consultants took over when the acoustic design was incomplete and made use of emerging international data on vibration transmission at Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) junctions, to determine the minimum arrangement of additional linings to control direct and flanking sound transmission.

They negotiated to relax reverberation time targets to the lowest values that were practically achievable. They maintained the control of low frequency sound, to create an inclusive environment with this project demonstrating reverberation time values that can be achieved with the commitment of the contractor and interior designer.

The judges agreed that reaching out to academics and other sources to find out and apply emerging research was very positive and refreshing to see, especially the research concerning CLT, open plan designs and coming up with appropriate criteria.

The Design Manager of the project said

"Apex Acoustics were fantastic partners in this process, exploring the limits of emerging understanding of sound insulation for the CLT frame, and pushing the boundaries for the reverberation time design. It was a great team effort to negotiate with the end client over their aspirations, and their delight with the finished product demonstrates how we got the balance right."



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