

Innovation Award

Sponsored by  MASON UK LTD
Vibration Control Products
& Acoustic Floor Systems



★ **Joint Winner:** Apex Acoustics and Peninsular Acoustics, *Open Windows*

This project demonstrates pursuit of better design standards for dwellings through collaboration between colleagues, across disciplines and academia.

It addresses a critical disconnect in building design introduced by Approved Document O. By pioneering the use of Equivalent Area (EA) as a unifying metric, it revolutionises collaboration between acoustic and thermal modelling disciplines.

There is currently a lack of coordination between the acoustic design and the overheating design. This is due in part to the acoustician's assessment in decibels and the thermal modellers need for input data as EA. This project introduces use of an existing thermal modelling metric, Equivalent Area, to calculate the façade sound insulation of partially open windows. Extensive field measurements validate the accuracy of the method for sound insulation, demonstrating comparable to more complex acoustic-specific conceptual approaches.

The project exemplifies interdisciplinary collaboration, supported by rigorous research, to drive positive change across the entire built environment. It is a major step forward in an area that has blighted acoustics challenges in planning applications for years. Finding a common language for the different parts of the industry is a huge achievement and one that should benefit all the parties involved.

In 2024 this award is presented jointly to three projects which all displayed innovation in different ways, namely with product use; application of Building Information Modelling; and research.

ACOUSTIC AWARDS 2024

These awards demonstrate the unique skills of UK based acoustic consultants in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.