

# The Patrick Shortt Award for Smaller Consultancies

☆ **Winner:** Ion Acoustics: Mulberry Academy, London Dock

**This is an outstanding example of how high-quality acoustic design can flourish under the most challenging conditions. Located on a compact urban site in Wapping, East London, the 1,150-pupil secondary school is bordered by busy roads and surrounded by sensitive residential dwellings. Despite these constraints, the school has achieved PassivHaus certification over a complex six-storey structure (including two basement levels), delivering an exemplary indoor and outdoor acoustic environment.**

Ion Acoustics were involved from the earliest design stages, helping to shape the building footprint as a barrier block to shield the school from environmental noise. Collaboration was central throughout the design and construction process, with Ion Acoustics working closely alongside architects, the client and contractors. This early and continued involvement ensured that acoustics remained a priority, integrated alongside ventilation and thermal performance targets inherent to the PassivHaus standard.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The Architect, noted "the outcome is an outstanding teaching environment where the constant traffic noise from the Highway is almost imperceptible

in 1st floor classrooms" and the Project manager added, "you literally cannot hear a sound from the main street," while a student expressed gratitude for being in "such a positive environment."

This project was also shortlisted for the Sustainability and Building Acoustics awards where the judges commended the project's bold response to a difficult location, praising its ability to create both high-performance internal spaces and usable external environments in a densely populated area. The fact that this small team have done this in such a difficult location, while achieving Passivhaus levels of sustainability, in a beautiful and light-filled building, is what makes this the winner of the smaller consultancies award.

## Acoustic Awards 2025

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.