



# Venues Award

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★ **Winner**

## Cundall - Tides

The Tides live music venue was recognised by the judges for its exceptional technical ambition and the level of acoustic innovation required to deliver a world class performance space within one of Hong Kong's most densely populated residential districts. Located inside the iconic boat shaped structure at Whampoa Garden, the venue sits in an extremely constrained urban environment, surrounded by more than 30,000 residents. With the nearest residential windows just six metres away, up to 2,000 people were identified as being directly at risk from potential noise impact, placing extraordinary demands on the acoustic design.

A key innovation was the lightweight engineered acoustic ceiling system, comprising suspended honeycomb aluminium sandwich panels with integrated tuned membrane absorbers to control low frequency energy. Wall treatments used composite aluminium sandwich panels with damping layers mounted on isolators to maximise vibration control. Carefully designed concrete structures were introduced to form perimeter containment zones, reducing airborne sound breakout and strengthening overall acoustic isolation. Internally, treatments were optimised to achieve a controlled reverberation environment suitable for live music, supporting

a balanced frequency response and high quality sound system performance.

The client testimonial from the Project Director at LNVD, highlighted both the complexity of the scheme and the adaptability of the acoustic team. She described the venue as being inserted into a 40 year old retail structure within a residential suburb, noting the extraordinary challenge of dwellings located only metres away. She praised the consultants' ability to respond to evolving structural changes, recalibrate designs and work collaboratively through complex operational scenarios for live music use.

Judges were highly impressed by the ambition and execution of the project. One described it as "*superb*," emphasising the achievement of complete inaudibility outside the venue despite the density of surrounding housing. The technical solutions were strongly commended, particularly the innovative use of lightweight construction, membrane absorbers and advanced composite systems that enabled performance levels typically associated with far less constrained buildings. Judges agreed that Tides represents an outstanding example of acoustics enabling an urban venue to operate successfully, balancing exceptional technical performance with meaningful protection of residential amenity.

## Acoustic Awards 2026

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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.