

Acoustic Considerations

When building or renovating, focus is usually directed to the choice of visual style, to reflect our personalities and lifestyles in our homes. Often, the “sound” of our choices is not given the consideration it deserves.

We have all experienced poor acoustics, and whether at a noisy café, an airport or in a concert hall the result is frustration, annoyance and an impediment to the ease of communication. If asked “Do you want your home to feel comfortable?” everyone would answer with a resounding “yes.” What does this mean when considering acoustics?

Loud, reverberant spaces are the result of sound bouncing around inside a space. Large, flat, hard surfaces will reflect sounds more than softer materials. A space constructed with large flat surfaces of concrete and glass will create an environment that is loud and echoey, resulting in sound fatigue. Any background sound will make it difficult to communicate effectively, the same as in the noisy café.

If this is the style of architecture you have chosen, all is not lost. With any design, there are materials and finishes available that will give the desired aesthetic while creating an acoustic environment conducive to comfort and relaxation.

While paying attention to acoustics is greatly beneficial to music listening, both for a whole home system or a dedicated music space, the improvement to the feel of your living spaces and the effect on your day to day interactions and activities cannot be underestimated.

Checklist

- What effect will my material choices have on the acoustics of my space?
 - Flat, hard surfaces will result in a poor acoustic if left untreated.
 - Timber and soft furnishing create a warmer, softer sound environment.
- How do I want to feel while I am in this room and how will the sound of the room effect this?
 - Is the space for relaxation, entertaining, etc?
 - Warm hug or sleek and cool?
- Would I like to listen to music in this space?
 - Entertaining, dinner party, music in the kitchen, relaxing on the couch?
- Are there noise sources in or near this space that will affect communication or liveability?
 - Coffee grinder, dishwasher, TV, refrigerator, rangehood etc

info@kyronaudio.com.au | kyronaudio.com.au

