



Sound acoustics in the workplace

From the floor up



The business benefits of a happy, healthy workforce

Every year millions of working days are lost due to work-related illness, resulting in lost productivity and huge costs for employers.

The physical workplace environment plays a major role.

Research has also shown that employees rank it as one of the top three factors contributing to job satisfaction, as well as to their decisions about accepting or leaving a job.

At Interface we know that our physical experiences impact on how we feel. And we understand the importance of having a great place to work.

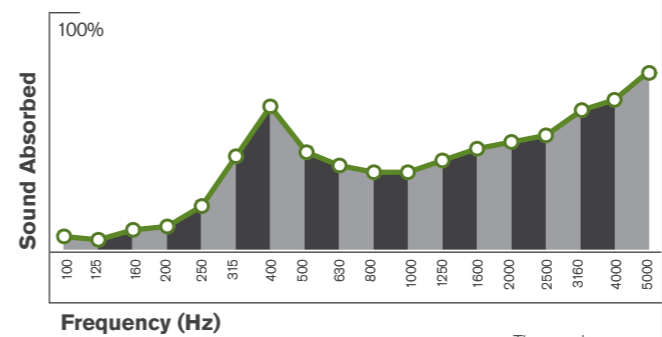
Designers and architects have a crucial role to play in providing inspirational environments that facilitate flexible working, for the benefit of both employers and employees.



Soft surfaces absorb more sound than hard surfaces but acoustic quality is a result of all the different features in room and not just the flooring.

Sound absorption

Sound absorption is measured across 18 different frequencies between 100Hz – 5000Hz. For example, here are the results for our Equilibrium product on SONE acoustic backing.



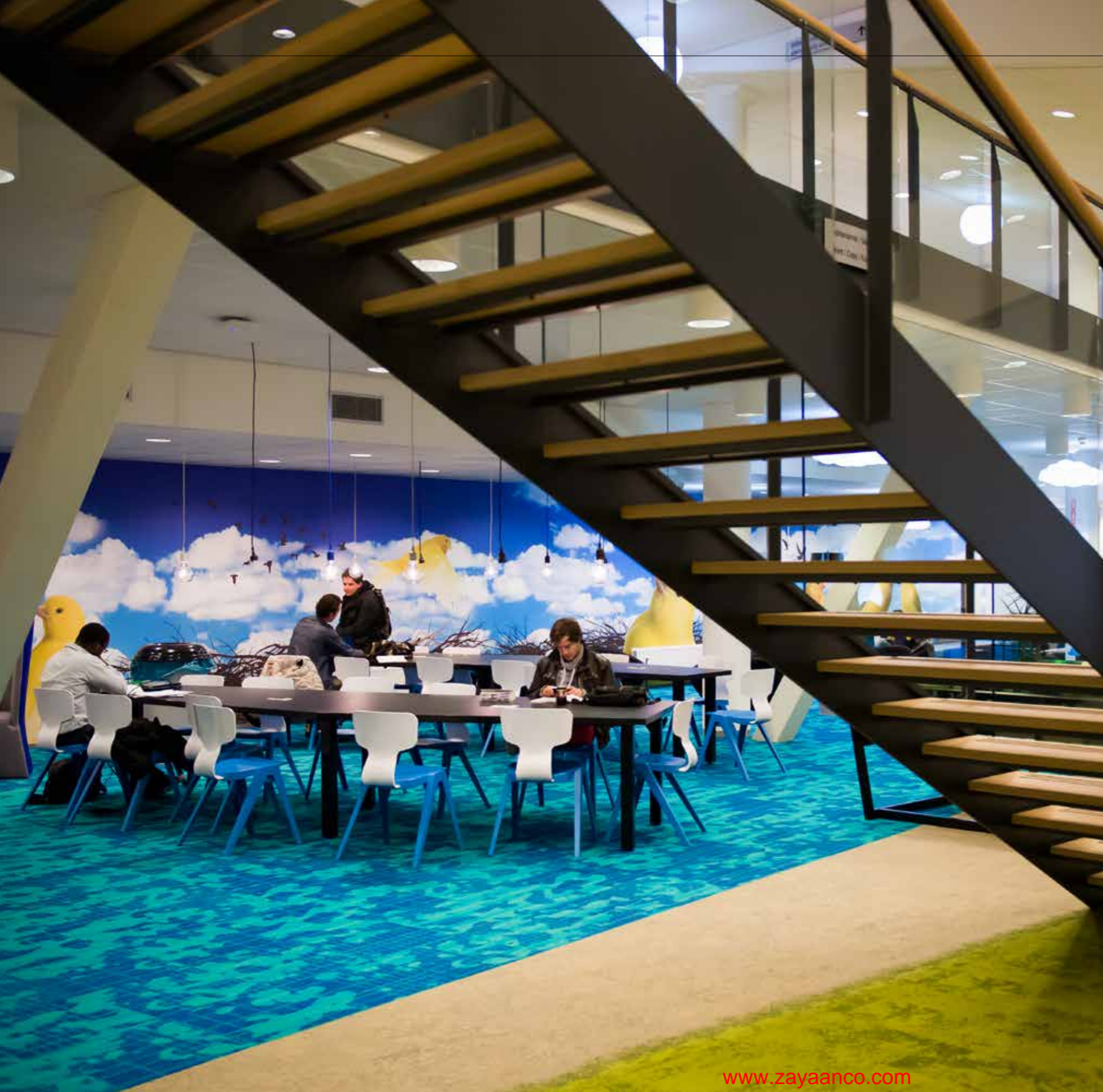
These values are called the alpha s.

α_s α_w

They are then averaged, rounded and weighted into a single value called the alpha w.

0.0	No sound absorbed
0.0-0.1	Hard flooring (cork, wood and concrete)
0.15-0.2	Interface product with standard backing
0.25-0.4	Interface product with acoustic backing
1.0	All sound absorbed

To be sure you address the specific type of sound you want absorbed, use the alpha s values for the relevant frequencies. Humans are less sensitive to low frequencies, making the absorption of mid to high frequency sounds more important.



Design choice

For the majority of projects, acoustic and ergonomic comfort can be achieved with the specification of standard Interface carpet tiles.

With a variety of textures and over 1000 colourways across 80 ranges, your scheme doesn't have to be compromised when you need to control the acoustic properties of the interior.

Our enhanced acoustic backing options, SONE™ and Interlay, can be used across the entire workspace or limited to smaller zoned areas that have more complex needs.



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