

PRESS INFORMATION

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TRANSLUCENT AND ACOUSTICALLY EFFECTIVE

No problems with concentration for staff at the call centre of the Gothaer insurance company in Cologne – thanks to acoustically effective panels from the Nimbus Group



Loud communication is the norm at a call centre – and the workplaces are usually in an open-plan office. That is also the case at the Gothaer insurance company's offices in Cologne, which were designed by OCC Office Competence GmbH. However, the acoustics were significantly improved by Rossoacoustic panels, and reverberation times were carefully balanced out so the 90 or so employees can work efficiently and in a pleasant atmosphere. This solution does not obstruct the passage of natural daylight, and visual contact among the employees is maintained. The result is an acoustically pleasant, convivial and open working climate.

"When you have a number of people working in an office, it is important for employees' performance as well as for their health to keep the noise level as low as possible and creative conditions conducive to concentration," says Jens Victora, a specialist for room

acoustics at Rosso. Moreover, there should be no long-term negative impact on sight lines or the light entering the office, but the workplaces should nevertheless be shielded from one another. Rosso, a brand belonging to the Nimbus Group from Stuttgart, has responded to this frequently recurring wish with the panels from the Rossoacoustic CP30 range: a translucent membrane body with a characteristic honeycomb structure. Thanks to its transparency, visual contact between employees can be maintained but, with the panels, the reverberation time is reduced due to the microperforations in the panel surface and sound is absorbed – a basic prerequisite for concentration and productive work. The microperforations that are so vital in achieving this acoustic effect were developed together with the Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics especially for these purposes and fields of application.

IDENTIFYING NEEDS USING SIMULATIONS OF THE ACOUSTIC CONDITIONS

Acoustic measurements were made before planning for the call centre got underway. Rosso offers such measurements and carries them out if required. Holistic planning was possible right from the very beginning thanks to a thorough analysis of the acoustic conditions, which, under ideal circumstances, is how it should be. At 700 square metres, the size of the room was one critical parameter along with the acoustically hard surfaces such as the large windows and the concrete ceiling. The planning team determined a requirement for over 300 panels from the Rossoacoustic CP30 range and 100 panels from the Rossoacoustic TP30 range, the latter being fabric-covered room partitioning elements that are also acoustically effective. At 2000 hz, that is to say the level at which, on average, people hear very well, the reverberation time was lowered from 0.6 seconds to 0.48 seconds. This figure is well under the target figure and just above the lower tolerance level. These requirements are specified in the VDI 2569 standard and are therefore binding for planners.



The unobstructed passage of daylight and zoning by means of highly effective acoustic elements are not irreconcilable goals. (Photo: Guido Erbring)



The CP 30 panels have a direct effect on the room's climate and enhance the working atmosphere. (Photo: Guido Erbring)



Group discussions are an established feature of the company culture. They are held in arenas fitted with translucent Rossoacoustic CP30 panels and the fabric covered panels from the Rossoacoustic TP30 range. (Photo: Guido Erbring)

Besides acoustics, light is also an important factor when it comes to employees' well-being and effectiveness in an open-plan office. Daylight from the ceiling-high windows can pass unobstructed through the translucent CP30 panels. The panel has an air of lightness and almost seems to float in mid-air due to the transparent edging. This almost playful touch contrasts with the predominantly functional room design, thus creating a pleasant working atmosphere. The translucent CP30 elements from Rosso create different zones in the room, yet it still appears open and expansive. As Carsten Tasche, a director of OCC Office Center Competence GmbH, explains: "For many years now, Rosso has been the only partner for us when it comes to deploying transparent acoustic systems."

ACOUSTIC PANELS IN HARMONY WITH THE INTERIOR CONCEPT

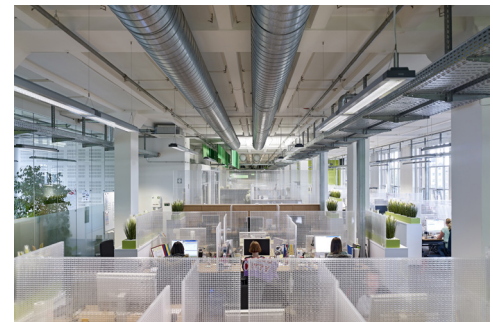
The CP30 elements mounted at the workplaces themselves are joined by the fabric-covered TP30 room partitioning system. The colourful, fabric-covered, acoustically effective system provides the required flexibility and therefore the best conditions for focused and communicative working. Various shades of green were chosen for the fabric elements to match the material and colour concept of the interior. "High-quality, functional design objects that appeal on an emotional level help to foster a sense of well-being in the office," says Katharina Schmidt, head of product development at Rosso and an interior architect.

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The translucent CP30 panels shield the workplace while still allowing a view around the office. (Photo: Guido Erbring)



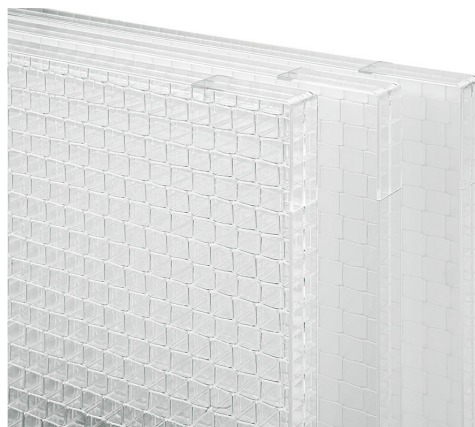
Despite the acoustic room partitioning, the overall impression is still one of an open and communicative room. (Photo: Guido Erbring)



The room can be zoned and shielded with the aid of the translucent CP30 and the suspended TP30 panels. (Photo: Guido Erbring)



The Rossoacoustic TP30 room partitioning system provides ample opportunities for customising using fabric and colours. The featherweight panels can be installed and combined in any imaginable constellation without the use of tools; colours can be chosen to match the interior. (Photo: Frank Ockert)



Rossoacoustic CP30 is translucent and available in various versions (e.g. in the CP30 Frost version (on the right) also opaque). (Photo: Frank Ockert)



Both the Rossoacoustic CP30 and TP30 elements can be suspended from the ceiling using fittings (here Solitaire GRIP). (Photo: Frank Ockert)

ABOUT THE NIMBUS GROUP

The Nimbus Group was founded by the architect Dietrich F. Brennenstuhl in 1988. It is different from most other enterprises and being different has helped the company to explore new avenues. Nimbus was the very first company to place its faith in LED technology, thus giving itself a global lead over the competition. The company has realised around 12,000 LED projects since 2006 and can now call upon a wealth of experience: its spectrum ranges from fitting out houses, doctors' practices, schools and boardrooms through to company headquarters like the Unilever head office in Hamburg, the ADAC headquarters in Munich and the head office of the WTO in Geneva.

The same innovative ability also finds expression in the Rosso and Rossoacoustic brands of highly flexible shading and room-partitioning systems; this is particularly apparent in the integrated acoustics solutions, which were developed using the latest findings from science and research.

The brands in both fields – light and acoustics – have joined forces in pursuit of innovation. Together with leading research institutes, the Nimbus Group is developing acoustically effective LED lighting solutions and further new products aimed at optimising office design.

At Light + Building 2016 the Nimbus Group presented a whole range of visionary luminaires that consistently embody the idea of cableless light that is available whenever and wherever it is needed. With their top-quality, appealing design, the lightweight and effortlessly rechargeable luminaires fit in perfectly with the company's philosophy.

The Nimbus Group currently employs a staff of around 160 and is a member of the renowned "German Design Council" foundation and a founding member of the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB).

You will find further information about the Nimbus Group at: www.nimbus-group.com

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