

Stewart Acoustical Consultants

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Architectural Acoustics

Architectural acousticians enhance the value of buildings and reduce risk in their construction through design analysis and advice to assure acoustical conditions suitable for the use of the space. We also assist owners, architects, or mechanical engineers of existing buildings that have problems.

Demanding projects such as the music facilities at Virginia Tech demonstrate our ability to produce world-class results on the most challenging projects. Services include basic planning, room acoustics, sound isolation, mechanical noise control, and (in association with F. C. Schafer Consulting) sound and video systems. We make rooms suitable for speech or music (or both), control crowd noise or make the singing loud, and provide speech clarity or privacy as appropriate. All buildings involve compromise. Even when acoustics are paramount, a space may not be acoustically perfect for every potential use because different uses demand different acoustical conditions.

We believe it is in our client's best interest to investigate all potential problems in a building fully. A room with excellent room acoustics can be unusable if there is noise from an adjacent room, a noisy mechanical system, or a poorly designed sound system. However, we can and will work on only a limited part of a new design project in some cases. Condominiums are an exception where we must insist on full involvement.

We work for either the owner or the architect (or engineer) to provide the best possible acoustical conditions for building users within the constraints imposed. Recognize that except for sound-system design, we do not prepare drawings. We are advising the client on what should be on those drawings but we do not control them. A carefully defined relationship between consultant and client is very important. We encourage owners and architects to carefully consider and decide mutually which will be our client. Owners who wish the strongest control over the acoustics of their project may wish to hire the acoustical consultant directly.