

Soundlight Comfort Ceiling Inspiring tranquility



Where sound meets light, comfort is built

Soundlight Comfort

PHILIPS

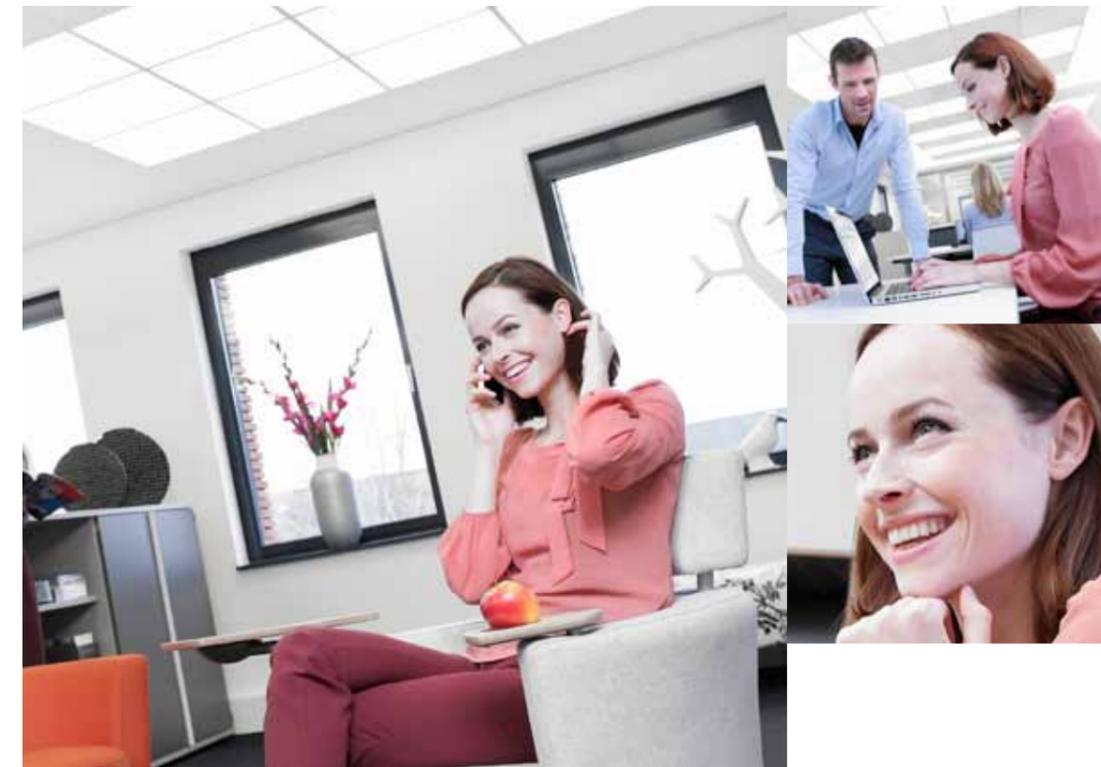
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The challenges for offices



Open communications has changed the way we work beyond all recognition. The office is no longer somewhere we go to use technology and tools; it's a place to meet, collaborate and interact. And as our ways of working have become more open, flexible and intuitive, so has the design of our offices.

The most successful offices are dynamic, open spaces that can accommodate group activities as well as personal tasks. Flexible layouts that can handle organisational change, growth or restructure, quickly and efficiently. But in order to provide a healthy, happy office environment, they must also be sensitive to the challenges presented by open plan working.



Light and performance

Lighting doesn't just illuminate the office. It influences our energy levels, performance and sense of well-being. But in many offices the lighting can be too harsh with an unbalanced distribution. That's usually the result of a compromise between energy efficiency, complying with office norms and personal comfort.

Directing as much light as possible towards the workspace can help to reduce energy use. However, choosing light sources with narrow beam shapes can create visual discomfort due to glare. The sharp cut-off of light also feels very artificial as it is so unlike natural daylight.

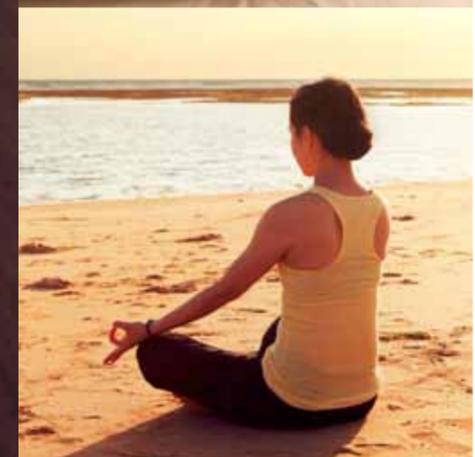
Inadequate lighting can result in eye strain, fatigue and poor staff performance, particularly for tasks that require problem solving and concentration. Good lighting has the opposite effect. Lighting that provides visual comfort, glare control and colour consistency creates a comfortable office ambience that helps people to be more effective.

Sound and comfort

One of the main problems in open offices is that sound can travel too far. If allowed to travel very far before reaching an acceptable level, even a simple telephone call or conversation between colleagues can disturb others. Constant exposure to unwelcome noise has been shown to

cause fatigue and affect concentration, making tasks more difficult to perform and affecting well-being.

The most effective acoustic solutions provide the right balance between communication and concentration. With the right sound absorption measures in place, speech clarity can be supported over short distances, while the overall distance that sound travels can be reduced. And by shortening the sound propagation in this way, people are less likely to be disturbed by their colleagues, improving concentration, problem solving and accuracy. So everyone can feel good about office life.



| Inspired
by nature |

Soundlight Comfort Ceiling is an innovative way to inspire tranquillity in the busiest of offices. Bringing together the best in lighting design, acoustic design and office design, it's a completely seamless solution that offers the ultimate in ceiling integration. Soundlight Comfort Ceiling creates a magical ambience that infuses any interior architecture with light so that the two become one. A solution that has visual and acoustical effects that are inspired by nature.

A visual spectacle

Soundlight Comfort Ceiling is inspired by the way that natural light illuminates our world. When the sky is blue and there are no clouds to block the view, we see the bright light and feel the radiant warm of the sun's rays. But even with a covering of clouds, molecules in the atmosphere still scatter a diffuse luminescence that fills the whole sky above us with light. It is this wide distribution of soft light that opens up our horizons, creating a sense of space to think and reflect.

An acoustical triumph

Nature also provides its own unique sound absorption. The vast interiors of churches, atriums or theatres may feel spacious, but they're usually associated with hard surfaces that bounce sound around, magnifying the slightest noise and producing harsh echoes. In contrast, open fields or natural habitats absorb sound energy very efficiently, muting the transmission of sound. So a wide open

space, under an endless blue sky, provides an extremely pleasant environment that inspires peace and tranquillity.

The ultimate ceiling integration

In traditional suspended ceiling installations, light and acoustics are treated as two different systems. The only thing they have in common is the modular panel size, with one recessed luminaire usually being surrounded by ten acoustic panels. However, light from a relatively small surface isn't aesthetically pleasing as a uniform large surface of light. It potentially causes glare and harsh contrasts in the field of vision. Unfortunately, a compromise has to be made, since light is integrated at the cost of sound absorption, while open plan offices require as much of the ceiling area as possible to be covered with highly efficient absorbers.

Soundlight Comfort Ceiling is different. It addresses light and acoustics in layers, rather than side by side. By superimposing

both functions into one panel, it truly fills the room with light, in a much more pleasant way than traditional solutions. So each ceiling tile is optimised to enhance office life and well-being.

The light generation and sound absorption happen beyond the visible surface of each tile. Think of it as a window, filtering sound on its way into the panel and diffusing light on its way out. The smooth, soft mat surface of each panel also has a discrete pattern that diffuses light in every direction, creating a rich and tranquil experience with high vertical light levels.



| Inspiring
tranquillity |

Soundlight Comfort Ceiling creates a uniform quality of light and sound over large areas of the ceiling. It's designed to minimise the transition from high glare, illuminated areas to pockets of shade. Light is now truly part of the ceiling architecture in stead as an add-on to the ceiling, which helps to reduce ceiling clutter. Laying the square panels out in a grid system provides an ordered structure that shows off the scale of the ceiling surface, which in turn enhances the proportions of the whole office space.



| Inspiring
light comfort |

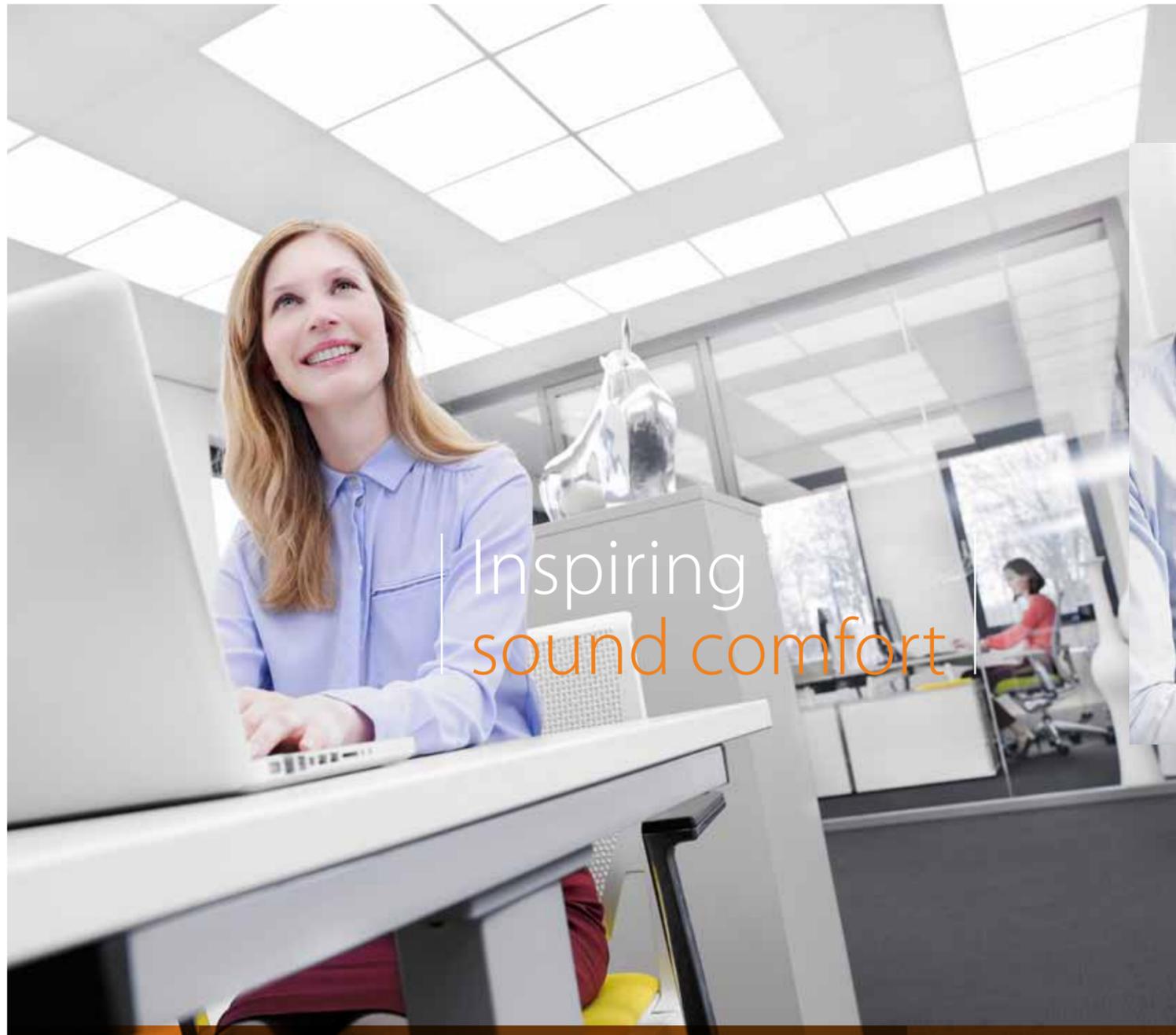
In the office, Soundlight Comfort Ceiling creates a haven of tranquillity with high quality white light that's crisp, fresh, energetic and bright. In central areas and dedicated meeting spaces, its welcoming ambience feels relaxing, soothing and comfortable. A far cry from the static, grey, lighting schemes that can make office life feel dull and monotonous.

Inspiring spacious design

By illuminating broad areas of the ceiling, visual and spacial continuity improves. The space is truly filled with light, with high illumination levels on walls and a uniform light distribution across the office, which create the perception of a bigger space. And because light is now truly part of the overall architecture of the office, rather than an add on like traditional luminaires, the clutter in the ceiling is decreased as well. It results in a much more tranquil and comfortable overall office look and feel, that helps people in their job performance.

Comfortable ambience

Soundlight Comfort Ceiling provides a wide illumination that expands the view of the office surroundings. Light feels like it comes from everywhere. It's diffuse and multi-directional, with the ceiling above the only possible light source. The soft and comfortable light reduces undesired shadows and provides a comfortable, yet practical ambience. This reminds of the natural, outdoor daylight, that we associate with freshness and energising, it helps us to stay active throughout the day.



Inspiring
sound comfort



Open plan offices are dynamic spaces where people need to carry out a wide variety of different roles, from group activities to individual tasks in their own personal workspace. But the two can often disturb each other, leading to poor concentration, stress and even absenteeism. Research shows that it's the distance that the sound travels that influences how people feel about the acoustics of their environment. The challenge is to create a softer soundscape that enables everyone to work together, so they can concentrate and collaborate without disturbing each other.

Office design

Open plan areas often have large windows and transparent glass partitions to flood the space with light. Together with a lack of walls, these factors combine to make sound travel further. To limit sound propagation, furnishings and screens should be sound absorbing, and placed in the appropriate positions. But without a complete acoustic solution in place, workplace noise will always disturb others in the room, reducing intellectual performance and diminishing task motivation.

The comfort effect

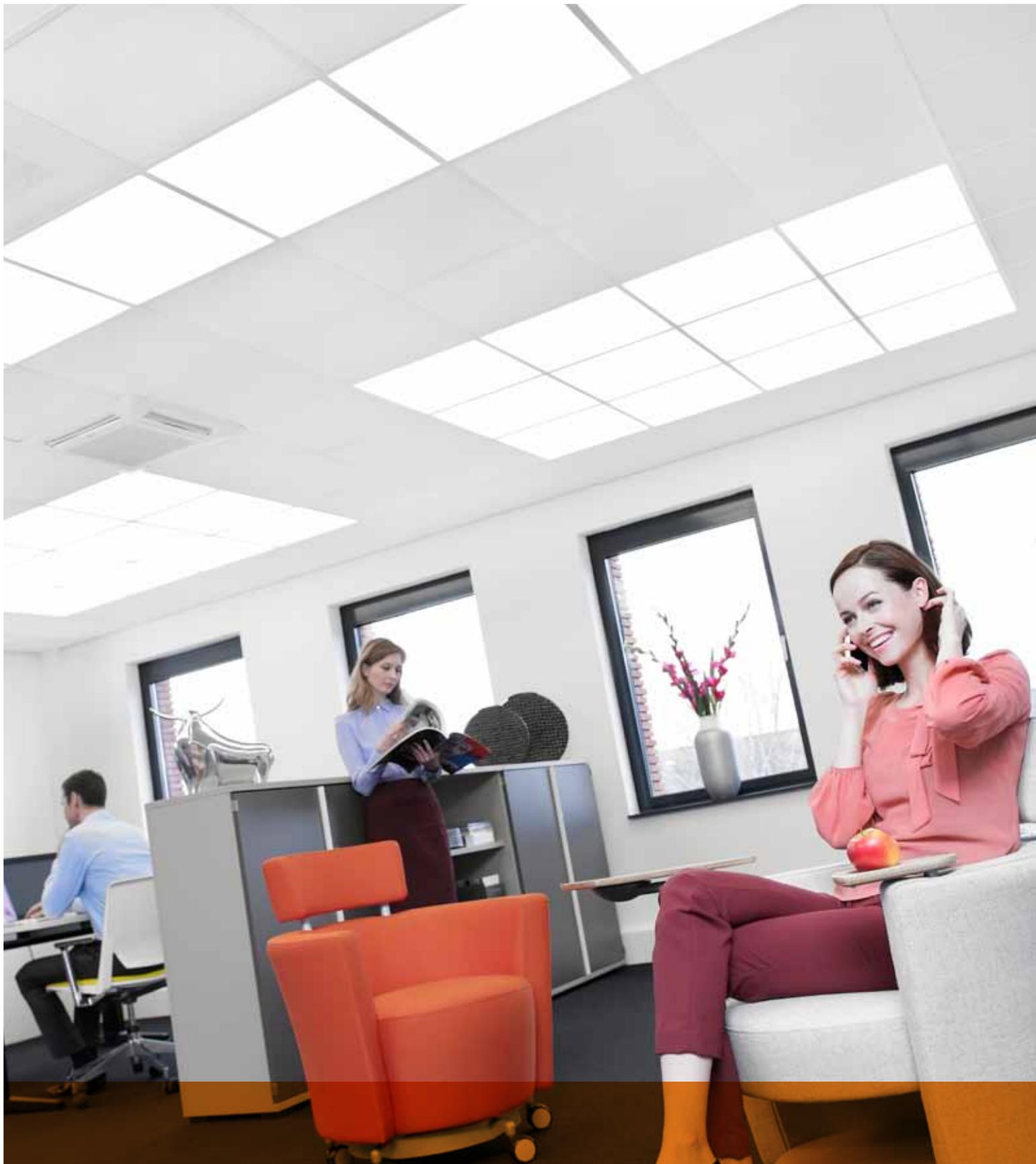
Soundlight Comfort Ceiling can turn an open plan office into an inspiring space that works, by combining comfortable lighting with superior sound absorption. Until now, incorporating light into acoustic panels always compromised acoustics. Now, with our innovative layered approach, 100% of the panel surface absorbs sound. Soundlight Comfort Ceiling softens sound to low levels, provides good speech clarity and low sound propagation all around the office. The result is less disruption, a longer attention span and effortless concentration. So whatever people are working on, business is a pleasure.

| A range of applications |



Soundlight Comfort Ceiling is suitable for a wide range of applications, from open plan offices to reception areas, corridors and internal meeting rooms.





Philips Lighting B.V.
www.lighting.philips.com

Saint-Gobain Ecophon B.V.
www.ecophon.co.uk

www.soundlightcomfort.com