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Total Acoustics™ Ceiling Panels from Armstrong® Play Leading Role in *Office Spaces* TV Show

Noise reduction takes center stage in workplace makeover



DEERFIELD BEACH, FL — Armstrong® Total Acoustics™ ceiling panels play a leading role in the new *Office Spaces* TV show airing on Lifetime® Television.

The new reality series, which is hosted by interior designer Kalyn Rothaus, reveals the step-by-step transformation of an existing warehouse into the new corporate headquarters for BrandStar, the educational programming unit for Lifetime.

“One of my biggest challenges was designing a bullpen area for about 54 employees that still supports focused work,” says Rothaus of her workplace makeover. “Employees

are on the phone. They're chatting with each other. They're expected to work as a team. I needed to manage all that noise."

After researching which ceilings would provide the best sound absorption (Noise Reduction Coefficient or NRC) and best sound blocking (Ceiling Attenuation Class or CAC), the on-air host decided on Armstrong ceiling panels with Total Acoustics performance.

Reducing Office Noise

Working with Armstrong to identify a look, a performance expectation and a budget that would satisfy the building owner, Rothaus specified Calla® ceiling panels with Total Acoustics performance. "I knew it would be ideal for private offices where sound blocking is important, as well as wall-to-wall ceilings in open spaces where noise reduction is crucial."

During an on-air interview with Sean Browne, principal scientist for Armstrong Ceilings, Rothaus learned that Calla ceiling panels have an NRC of 0.85, meaning they absorb 85 percent of the sound that strikes them, and a CAC of 35, which helps block sound transmission into adjacent spaces that share a common plenum. "You can use Total Acoustics ceiling panels throughout the space – in the private offices and the bullpen," he says. "Then, if you reconfigure the space to adapt to new uses, you already have the right ceiling panels for the acoustics you need."

To break up the look of the ceilings in the open areas, Rothaus specified Armstrong Formations™ Acoustical clouds with Calla ceiling panels in Stone and coordinating aluminum Axiom® trim. "When we add in the stone color Formations clouds below the white wall-to-wall Calla ceiling, we are not only getting beautiful design, but also another layer of sound absorption," adds Rothaus.

Measuring Acoustical Performance

After adding a Dynasound sound masking system to further suppress unwanted sound, Rothaus brought in Brooks Acoustics Corporation to measure the acoustical performance of the space. The acoustical consultant found that the private offices achieved reverberation time of 0.4 seconds and a Privacy Index of 100 percent, optimizing speech intelligibility and ensuring speech privacy between adjacent spaces.

In the private offices, which all share a common plenum, the walls extend only six-to-eight inches above the ceiling plane. "Using Total Acoustics ceiling panels was the only hope for achieving confidential speech privacy in the closed offices," says Browne. To further ensure speech privacy, narrow linear light and HVAC fixtures were installed away from the walls in the center of the room. "This further reduced any impact sound leakage could have on the Privacy Index," adds Browne.

In the much larger bullpen area, reverberation time remained 0.4 seconds. With a

Privacy Index of 80-to-90 percent, normal speech privacy was achieved between adjacent workstations.

“I couldn’t be happier with the look of Calla ceiling panels with Total Acoustics performance,” says Rothaus at the conclusion of Episode 6 of “Office Spaces,” which focuses on noise reduction. “The combination of sound absorbing and sound blocking makes it a perfect solution for the entire building.”

For more information about the show, visit [Office Spaces](#).

For more information about Total Acoustics and other Armstrong ceiling products, please visit www.armstrongceilings.com/totalacousticstv.

About Armstrong

[Armstrong World Industries Inc.](#) (AWI) is a global leader in the design and manufacture of innovative commercial and residential ceiling, wall, and installation system solutions. With over 3,700 employees and fiscal 2015 revenues from ceiling operations in excess of \$1.2 billion, AWI operates from a global manufacturing network of 25 facilities, including 10 plants dedicated to its WAVE joint venture.

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