

Bespoke Acoustic Barrier for Sandwell Aquatics Centre

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Products

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Background

Sandwell Aquatics Centre in Smethwick is a brand new, state-of-the-art leisure centre which started off as a specially built venue for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

The venue hosted more medal events than any other, featuring the swimming and diving competitions. The new building included a swimming and diving competition pool, a temporary swimming and para swimming warm-up pool, and a dry dive training area. Since its success hosting the games, the centre has now been transformed into a leisure centre with a 100+ station gym, 25+ station ladies only gym, sauna and steam room, football pitch, 2 4-courts, 3 exercise studios, indoor cycling studio, 3 swimming pools, and more.

The original venue was reconfigured, removing 4000 temporary seats, and adding new facilities for use by the community from the summer of 2023 onwards.

Within the proposal documents, Mach Acoustics provided two detail acoustic reports, one for operational noise and one for plant noise. In the plant noise breakout assessment, the acoustician detailed predicted noise outcomes from the mechanical plant room, which includes a number of pumps and air handling units. The acoustician recommended an acoustic barrier with louvre features to ensure adequate airflow. In a later amendment to the design, a solid acoustic barrier with slatted topper for airflow and aesthetics was specified. It also specified steel louvre doors.

Absorptive acoustic barriers are now commonplace around new and refurbished leisure centres, reducing noise pollution from mechanical plant and operational compounds. It is common for heat pumps and air conditioning units to emit a low humming or buzzing noise that can disturb neighbouring properties and cause sound levels to be unpleasant for members and visitors.



Solution

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