

Architectural Acoustics: Can You Hear Me Now?





“With some understanding of basic acoustical principles, how materials and structures control sound, many problems can be avoided altogether or, at least, solved in the early stages of the project at greatly reduced cost.”

While the wide-ranging applicability of acoustics is a well-known fact among architects and other design professionals, finding a well-organized, comprehensive introduction to the field may have been a challenge in the past. With the publication of *Architectural Acoustics* in late March, the 20th title in NCARB’s popular continuing education monograph series, design professionals have at hand a detailed, technically astute resource on the “science of controlling sound within a building” (Wikipedia).

Architectural Acoustics has been edited by William J. Cavanaugh and Joseph A. Wilkes, FAIA; its six chapters have been authored or coauthored by experienced acoustical consultants. Each chapter concludes with a listing of references, recommendations for further reading, and at least one case study. The monograph also offers three appendices (“Conversion Factors, Abbreviations, and Unit Symbols”; “Acoustical Societies Throughout the World”; and “Selection of an Acoustical Consultant”), a glossary, and an index.

The monograph’s first chapter, written by Cavanaugh, provides an introduction to architectural acoustics and basic principles. Cavanaugh covers a number of concepts, criteria, and selected standards, including sections about frequency, the decibel scale, and sound transmission between rooms. The chapter’s case study looks at Harvard University’s Fogg Art Museum lecture hall as one of the first examples of modern architectural acoustics.

Subsequent monograph chapters explore “Acoustical Materials and Methods,” “Building Noise Control Applications,” “Acoustical Design: Places for Listening,” “Sound Reinforcement Systems,” and “Recent Innovations in Acoustical Design and Research.”

A CONTINUING EDUCATION RESOURCE FOR YOU

NCARB’s Professional Development Program monograph series is a convenient, low-cost continuing education resource for architects and related design professionals. Current NCARB Council Record holders can earn continuing education units in health, safety, and welfare for less than \$15 per unit. Payment covers the monograph, quiz, scoring process, and one free retest, if needed. NCARB also reports passing scores to the American Institute of Architects at no extra cost.

Those who successfully complete the *Architectural Acoustics* quiz will earn 14 professional development units (PDU’s)/continuing education units (CEU’s) in health, safety, and welfare. *Architectural Acoustics* is \$275 USD. Current NCARB Record holders may purchase the monograph for \$185 USD.

A full listing of current monographs—exploring subjects as varied as sustainable design, daylighting performance, and mold and moisture prevention—is available on the back cover. Visit NCARB’s secure web site (www.ncarb.org) to order a monograph