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1. Why are acoustics important in terms of achieving desired learning outcomes?

Acoustics can significantly affect communication, comprehension, and overall learning experiences. Proper acoustic design helps minimize distractions, reduce cognitive load, support clear communication, and improve engagement and participation. Acoustic comfort also promotes wellbeing and mental health, reducing stress and fatigue, and ultimately, contributes to healthier, more productive learning environments.

2. What are the negative consequences of poor acoustics in schools, colleges, and so forth?

Poor acoustics in educational settings can have negative effects in these areas:

- Academic Performance
- Communication and Interaction
- Teacher Stress and Effectiveness
- Behavioural Issues
- Longer Term Societal Impacts

3. Educational facilities have changed dramatically over recent years and moved away from the 'traditional classroom'. Provide examples of these new types of learning spaces?

Pedagogy is moving from the discursive to the collaborative, project-based and interactive. A shift towards more flexible, dynamic learning environments, which ultimately support the needs of both teachers and students, better facilitating the diversity of teaching methods and learning styles.

4. How have these learning spaces mentioned above altered acoustic considerations?

The shift from traditional classrooms has necessitated a comprehensive approach to acoustics. Effective acoustic design in these spaces focuses on managing noise levels, enhancing speech intelligibility, providing flexibility, ensuring inclusivity, and incorporating sustainable materials. These considerations are essential to create learning spaces that are conducive to education in a dynamic and evolving landscape

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5.How have concepts like Building with Country, vertical schools, and open classrooms affected acoustic requirements?

Open and flexible learning spaces often lack the physical barriers that traditional classrooms had, which leads to higher levels of ambient noise as sounds from different areas mix. To manage this, designers and engineers must employ acoustic zoning, which involves creating distinct areas with specific acoustic treatments to manage the noise traveling from one space to another. Materials like acoustic panels, sound-absorbing furniture, and partitions can be used to delineate these zones without erecting solid walls.

6.What affect does the use of recycled materials, circularity, and so on have on acoustic design?

It encourages the various relevant stakeholders to become better innovators and stretch beyond the benchmarks of acoustic performance. It's increasingly important to consider how products are made and used through every stage of the life cycle, from installation to end-of-life. The use of recycled materials and ensuring the ability to repurpose product, adds layers of complexity to the design and manufacturing process.