The Case Against Noise: Research findings confirm its negative effects - Improvements resulting from increased speech privacy.

Focus – The ability of office workers to focus on their tasks improved by 47%.

Distractions – “Conversational distractions” decreased by 51%.

Error-rates – Performance of standard “information worker” tasks (measured in terms of accuracy [error-rated] and short-term memory) improved by 10%.

Stress – When measured in terms of the actual physical symptoms of stress, stress was reduced by 27%.

David M. Sykes, Ph.D.

Workplace Perceptions and Attitudes

- More than 70% of workers believe noise is the most significant workplace distraction
- Over 80% of workers believe a quieter environment would enable them to be more productive
- The majority of workers believe reducing distracting noise increases their productivity
- The majority of workers identify conversation as the type of noise that most affects work performance

Research identified ‘noise’ as a likely cause of employee dissatisfaction with the work atmosphere in terms of low motivation to work, reduced performance and irritation. (Ooman, Knoxles & Zhao, 2008)

In the modern workplace, the emphasis is on teamwork, flexibility and communication. For most companies and designers, this means open plan work areas.

Gone are the days of being tucked away in private offices. But while the move to open plan has many advantages, it has also meant a loss of privacy and the constant distraction of noise. Spacio has the solution, helping you manage sound levels with a high degree of accuracy, ensuring that productivity and privacy needs are met.

Après Furniture is proud to present Spacio Office Meeting Pods and Spacio Phone Booths, a range of lightweight modular acoustic pods and hubs which can create a multitude of high performance acoustic environments for a variety of uses such as making private phone calls, holding office meetings, agile working and hotdesking.

The design of the walls and the roof system is such that sound absorption is optimised, with integrated lighting and air circulation fan.

The system is customisable, demountable, can easily be reconfigured and, unlike partitioning, there are no dilapidation costs to consider.

Ooman, Knowles & Zhao (2008)
1. Constructed using the highest quality laminated glass and acoustic lined upholstered screen panels, Spacio Office Meeting Pods® ensure insulation and a near noiseless meeting environment.

2. At 70mm, this screen is not only very rigid, it can also carry a lot of weight externally and a lot of acoustic foam internally. The permutations are endless with this screen and the addition of an acoustic ceiling achieves a high level of speech privacy.

3. The system is demountable and can easily be reconfigured and, unlike partitioning, there are no dilapidation costs to consider. The office meeting pods can furthermore be linked to one another by sharing panels, resulting in a saving of both space and cost.

4. Clever PIR sensors switch the lighting and fans on automatically when entering the booth while both the frame and acoustic upholstery can be tailored in terms of colour, and for bigger orders a bespoke RAL palette can be ordered.
Spacio Office Meeting Pods

At 70mm the screen is not only very rigid, it can also carry a lot of weight externally and a lot of acoustic foam internally. The permutations are endless with this screen and the addition of an acoustic ceiling achieves a high level of speech privacy - 95% to be exact.

The design of the walls and the roof system is such that sound reduction and sound absorption is optimised with integrated lighting and fan air circulation system.

The Spacio system is demountable, can easily be reconfigured, and, unlike partitioning, there are no dilapidation costs to consider.

Spacio Office Meeting Pods are available in tiled or glazed versions and in standard sizes or can be custom made to your requirements.

Typical acoustic points:
Panel size 1800mm x 600mm
25mm foam = 8 points, 40mm foam = 10 points
Points score refers to one side of the screen only

Weighted Sound Reduction Index (Rw) = 30dB
Sound Transmission Class (STC) = 30dB

N.B. A screen with an NRC of 0.90 absorbs 90% of all sound that hits it.

N.B. A screen with an NRC of 0.75 absorbs 75% of all sound that hits it.
Speech Privacy is linked to the amount of speech disturbance between two people who are not in conversation with each other. The degree of Speech Privacy in any situation is established by measurement of the Privacy Index. The Privacy Index is expressed as a percentage where 0 is no privacy and 100 is complete privacy.

Privacy Index is dependent upon the talker voice level, sound attenuation between the talker and the listener due to the local environment and the ambient noise level at the listener. The range of the Privacy Index assigned to each degree of Speech Privacy is shown in the table. The following results were obtained for a normal speech level of 60 dB(A) and ambient noise level of 48dB(A).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speech Privacy</th>
<th>Privacy Index %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confidential</td>
<td>95 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal</td>
<td>80 - 95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional</td>
<td>60 - 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B. Substitution of acoustic panels with glazed panels will reduce NPI.

Spacio Office Pods

Spacio pods are a true system solution, comprising of simple building blocks, all interchangeable to allow easy reconfiguration of any variation.
Spacio Office Pods and Spacio Office Phone Booths can be customised with your company logo, branding, or just about anything you can think of. As long as we are supplied with suitable high-resolution imagery we will do the rest.

These graphics (or manifestations) are recommended from a health and safety perspective but can also enable your acoustic pod to integrate with your existing office interiors and represent your business’s identity.

Alternatively you can opt for predefined manifestations such as bar codes, pixels or dots. The choice is yours.
Spacio Phone Booths solve office-related problems associated with staff looking for privacy in the open plan office. Providing enough space for a single user, isolated from wondering ears, Spacio Phone Booths provide privacy for personal calls, video conference calls or a space for uninterrupted work with integrated lighting and air circulation fan.

Equipped with the best acoustics on the market, Spacio offers a quiet space with the option of adding furniture. You can specify your Spacio Phone Booth with a small shelf and then furnish it with either a stool or chair.

Spacio Phone Booths are constructed using laminated glass and acoustic lined upholstered straight screen panels, with a clear hinged door. Easy to install and mobile: should you ever need to relocate to a new office, Spacio Office Phone Booth can be easily moved if required.

The amount of upholstered and clear panels can be changed but bear in mind that the upholstered panels add to the acoustic effectiveness of the office phone booth. Built in power and data are optional extras.

Spacio Phone Booths are the most cost effective solution against fixed partitioning, saving as much as 90% of the original costs on just one move in its life.
Spacio Office Mini Pods

Dimensions: 1595 x 1595 x 2510
Spacio Office Meeting Pods

SPACIO_3050
Dimensions: 3050 x 3050 x 2510
Spacio Office Mini Pods

SPACIO_3120
Dimensions: 1595 x 3120 x 2510
Spacio Office Meeting Pods

SPACIO_5138
Dimensions: 3050 x 5138 x 2510
Spacio® Grand Meeting Pod range is a new high end room-in-room meeting solution for the executive office. It features the same acoustic features as the standard Spacio pod family just finished to an executive level.

Spacio® Grand features brass, bronze and black frame options combined with hand selected veneer panels for the outer panels, beautifully enhanced with brass or bronze strips in between each panel. The internal panels of the pod can be either perforated leather, fabric or a combination of both, elegantly finished with the same brass or bronze strip detail.

Spacio® Grand Meeting Pods can be made to any size starting from the single user office phone booth for private calls to larger meeting room solution for two, four or ten people.

Being a freestanding, room-in-room system, Spacio® Grand Meeting Pods create ideal private workspaces in an open plan office environment. Spacio Grand is an ideal place for making a phone call, carrying out individual work, or holding team meetings. It is constructed using the highest quality glazed glass and acoustic lined screen panels; ensuring insulation and a near noiseless meeting environment.
Europost 2 fabric range is available in 48 colours - enough to customise your Spacio Pod in any combination!
The Spacio Range

Spacio Phone Booths

Spacio is available in standard sizes but can be custom built to fit into your open plan office perfectly.

Spacio Office Meeting Pods