

THE USER IN FOCUS

Designing great acoustic environments with **the users in mind** can be a challenge when combined with the practicalities of an **office space**. However, including a **human-centric approach** to a building's design can pay-off in the long run creating acoustic spaces that support the organisations they accommodate. Choosing the right acoustic solution can make the difference between creating a good office or great office environment.



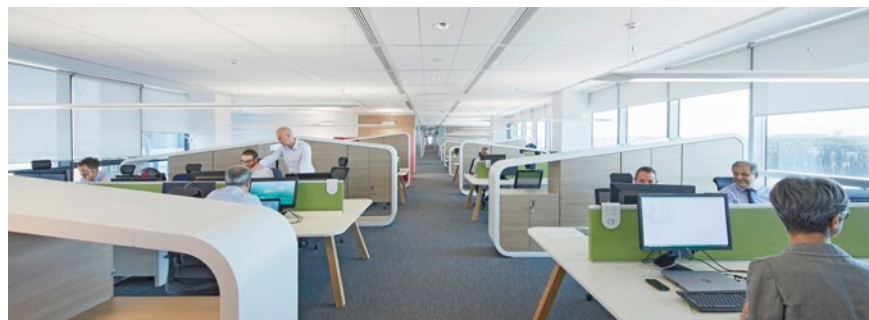
A FLOATING SKY

BNL-BNP Paribas, an important player in the banking sector, decided to move more than 3,000 of its employees to its new headquarter in Rome. This unique, state-of-the-art office building almost floats in the air, suspended between the sky and the earth. The massive 70,000 m² building stretches over 230 m and is divided into 12 storeys, with 4 underground levels.



BIG AMBITIONS OUTSIDE AND IN

The architects of the new BNP-BNL Paribas had a grand ambition for both the interior and exterior of the building. Aiming a LEED Gold certification meant that areas like energy efficiency, lighting and acoustics were high on the agenda. It was important to create a space that supported the people using it and not forcing people to adapt to it. Interior designer, Paolo Mantero from Studio Mantero explains, *"Open-spaces in particular present the challenge of acoustic reverberation and this is why we decided to choose a ceiling with high acoustic absorption and improved sound insulation, reducing the overall sound level and creating more comfortable environments in which everyone can easily concentrate"*.



ACOUSTICS AND DESIGN COMBINED

The Rockfon dB solution that was chosen did not only solve the acoustic challenges of a modern and flexible workplace, it also perfectly fit the minimalistic and modern design of the building itself.

"The choice of the D / AEX-edge combination has a semi-concealed ceiling aspect on one side and a design line on the other one. We chose extra-long panels to further highlight the longitudinal feature of the spaces", Architect Alfonso Femia from 'Atelier Alfonso Femia' highlights.