



PHILIPS

Office Lighting

Westnetz GmbH



Case study

Enhancing the feeling of wellbeing in a company cafeteria with Soundlight Comfort

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A wonderful atmosphere as an appetizer and a stimulating discussion for dessert. **Our cafeteria provides far more than food.**”

Heinz Büchel, Work Director
Managing Director of Westnetz GmbH



When looking into what today's employees expect from the works canteen or cafeteria, a German services distribution network discovered that it should be a room where employees could not only eat well, but also enjoy a space where they could also relax with co-workers and guests. It should be a pleasant atmosphere where they would not be surrounded by the loud noises so typical of company cafeterias. To achieve this, a ceiling with excellent sound absorption qualities and LED lighting was installed. It provides energy efficient lighting in an acoustically optimized environment that contributes to a feeling of wellbeing.

Making a difference in company catering

During a move to former Telekom Tower in Dortmund in 2013, Westnetz GmbH, a subsidiary of the RWE energy and disposal group, seized the opportunity to create a catering facility for employees that promotes a comfort and wellbeing. Heinz Büchel, Work Director for Westnetz said, “We were aware that good lighting and good acoustics are important. The challenge was to integrate that into the building fabric at a high level and create a live ceiling. This was our architect's mission.” And as a major player in the energy industry, the company also wanted to achieve the greatest possible energy efficiency. “Naturally, we want to cut costs. But only in a way that is environmentally friendly and without prejudicing performance”, added Heinz Büchel.

How it was done

Soundlight Comfort is the result of close collaboration between Philips and ceiling manufacturer Ecophon. It is the perfect combination of modern ceiling aesthetics, optimized sound absorption and LED lighting. Its modern look and tailored acoustics inspires calm as well as visual relief. The limited noise dispersion reduces voice levels from neighboring tables while still enabling comfortable conversation with dining partners. It effectively recreates the atmosphere of a good restaurant.

The Soundlight Comfort LED lighting panels were installed together with the visible sub-structure over an innovative suspension system on three levels. And what was a challenge for the contractors turned out to be a real plus for the overall appearance because the design-oriented installation impresses

staff and guests alike. The LEDs create a diffused lighting from the large surfaces, and enhances visual comfort by eliminating dazzle and hard shadow contrasts. It looks as if the light is uniformly distributed over the entire room. A total of 120 Soundlight Comfort Ceiling modules were installed in the serving area to form a uniform band of light over all the counters.

What it means

The natural ambience and excellent quality of the modern LED lighting throughout the cafeteria is particularly pleasant. Whether it is food or people's faces, the appearance and colors are more natural, more pleasant and clearer than is possible with traditional lighting. A more than welcome additional benefit is that the LEDs are 40% more energy efficient than traditional solutions.

The last word...

“Our cafeteria really succeeds in making lunch breaks an enjoyable experience. Sometimes it is even the subject of discussion. What also impresses me is that the Soundlight Comfort installation is flexible. For who knows when we will be seized by the desire for change?” said Heinz Büchel.

Lighting solutions realised in this project



Soundlight Comfort

Soundlight Comfort is a revolutionary ceiling system that integrates lighting and an acoustic ceiling. Developed for open plan office spaces, it fulfills the requirements of a ceiling system in terms of reduced sound level, improved speech clarity, reduced sound propagation and it is fully office norm compliant. The LED technology used leads to an energy efficient solution.





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