



# Case study

## Karolinska University Hospital

Location  
Philips Lighting

Huddinge, Sweden  
Soundlight Comfort Ceiling



Soundlight Comfort

**PHILIPS**

**Ecophon**  
SAINT-GOBAIN



"I've had very positive experiences. I feel sharper and quite simply more alert. This feels like the office of the future."

Emma Loven, Operations Manager at the Innovation Centre, Karolinska University Hospital



# Soundlight Comfort Ceiling is helping to create the office of the future



## Project info

### Customer

Karolinska University Hospital

### Location

Huddinge, Sweden

### Philips products

Soundlight Comfort Ceiling

### Results

Employees feel that the Soundlight Comfort Ceiling solution

- is significantly better than traditional recessed fluorescent tube lighting (80%);
- improves visual comfort (82%);
- creates an environment where they want to work (91%).

## Background

Karolinska is Sweden's largest university hospital, with 15,000 employees and 1.5 million patient visits annually. The complex includes the Innovation Plaza offices; the hospital's interface for collaborative projects with organisations in industry, universities and healthcare.

## The challenge

The office of the Innovation Centre was rebuilt in 2012, and the old cellular office space was replaced with a more open plan layout. The lighting environment was created using recessed T8 fluorescent luminaires, and the office acoustic issues were solved using suspended sound buffers that created a cluttered visual impression. Neither the lighting nor the acoustic solution suited the new, modern office environment. Besides that it was difficult to bring adequate daylight into the offices, as the space is fairly deep.

## The solution

In 2013 the Soundlight Comfort Ceiling solution developed by Philips and Ecophon, was installed at the Innovation Centre. A total of 550 LED Soundlight Comfort Ceiling panels and a significant number of non-LED tiles were installed throughout the entire open plan office area, in the kitchen and in the two conference rooms, bringing both comfortable, diffused lighting and excellent acoustic properties. The installation was the subject of a study by the Stress Research Institute at Stockholm

University in cooperation with KTH, Philips and Ecophon. The study looked at employees before and after the change of lighting and acoustic in the environment, and examined among other things, the interplay between intake of daylight and the new office lighting. The results show that the new lighting has created a more comfortable atmosphere. The light is distributed more effectively and is comfortably diffused, reducing reflections and facilitating better visual ergonomics, making it easier to read – something that can be assumed to boost work performance. Employees previously rated the old lighting as “fairly good”. The new installation was ranked “very good” and the employees are “very pleased”.

## Benefits

That the new lighting environment has made a difference is also borne out by employees, who for the most part feel more energetic and less stressed. Emma Loven, Operations Manager at the Innovation Centre, is one of the employees who have noticed the positive effects. “I feel more upbeat and I am less fatigued in the afternoon. I feel sharper and quite simply more alert.” She also points out other advantages presented by the new lighting solution. “The light is distributed well, and is sufficient for the entire office space. Together with the nice acoustics, this means an increased degree of flexibility, so we can adapt the space wholly on the basis of operational needs. This feels like the office of the future.”



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