

noiseletter

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Decorative Acoustical Baffles Help Quiet a Hospital Zone



Kinetics decorative acoustical baffles, installed at the therapeutic pool facility at Boulder Memorial Hospital, have helped create a quiet, relaxed atmosphere for physical therapy sessions, fitness classes, and swimming lessons.

Most people wouldn't think of packing their swimsuits for a trip to the hospital. But for many patients of Boulder Memorial Hospital in Boulder, Colorado, their rehabilitation programs include therapy in a warm-water pool.

Boulder Memorial's therapeutic pool is used in the treatment of a wide range of health problems, and for a number of fitness and recreational programs. For patients with physical handicaps or temporary disabilities, the warm water offers an ideal environment for therapy. Up to 200 patients use the 55 ft x 36 ft (17 m x 11 m) pool every day, working closely with therapists who plan and direct individual and group therapy programs.

Not long after the pool facility opened, though, therapists found that because of the high noise level, many patients, particularly the elderly and hearing-impaired persons, had difficulty communicating with each other and with the instructors. The concrete, brick, and glass structure enclosing the pool area allowed noise to reverberate, thus creating a very live, noisy space.

Kinetics Noise Control representative Fred Norton, of Kinetics West, Littleton, Colorado, devised a simple, effective solution for the hospital. To reduce the noise level in the pool area, a quantity of Kinetics Model PAB-2448 decorative acoustical baffles were suspended by wire from the facility's ceiling. The new baffles feature a fabric-encased, 1 in (25 mm) thick fiberglass core which provides the acoustical characteristics to help reduce noise. The units measure 48 in x 24 in x 1/2 in (1219 mm x 610 mm x 38 mm), and weigh less than 7 lbs. (3 kg) each. Their neutral-colored fabric covering offers an unobtrusive addition to the pool's decor. Baffles are available in a wide variety of standard coverings, or in customer-specified colors and fabrics.

With the help of Kinetics acoustical baffles, the therapeutic pool at Boulder Memorial has become a highly successful treatment facility, according to Joyce Thomson, Administrator - Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation: "The pool area now provides a much more relaxed atmosphere for our patients, and our therapists and instructors can be more effective in a quieter teaching environment."