

BLOOMBERG EUROPEAN HQ, VORTEX, LONDON

Architects: Foster + Partners

Main Contractor: Sir Robert McAlpine

Joinery Contractor: Taylor Made
Joinery

Products: Topperfo Micro Perforated
Panels

Finish: American Red Oak

Completed: Winter 2017

Project Overview

The Vortex - a sweeping timber-lined arrival space at Bloomberg's European headquarters - forms the dramatic centrepiece of the building designed by Foster + Partners. Conceived as a workplace that brings 4,000 employees together under one roof, the interior needed to support movement, clarity and collaboration from the moment people entered.

Within this sculptural, open-volume space, acoustic control was essential. The project team integrated Topperfo Micro panels to ensure the Vortex remained both visually striking and acoustically comfortable, aligning with the building's wider ambition to encourage connection and creativity.



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Design Challenge

The Vortex is defined by its curved timber planes, fluid surfaces and large open volume - a dramatic architectural form but one that naturally risks introducing reverberation and amplified noise.

The brief required the space to:

- control sound pressure levels within a vast atrium-like environment
- avoid disruptive echo and 'flutter' common in complex geometries
- preserve the visual purity of the timber surface
- support the building's aim of encouraging interaction and clarity

Any acoustic system needed to blend seamlessly with the architectural form and remain visually unobtrusive from all vantage points.

Products Used

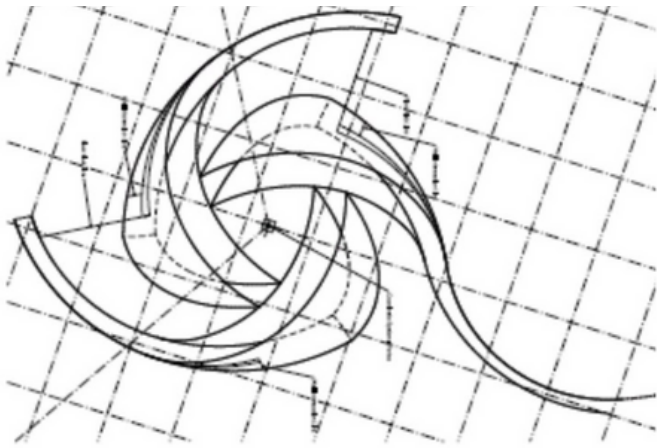
- Topperfo Micro 3/3/0.5 (aw 0.60, Absorption Class C, NRC 0.81)
- Finish: American Red Oak

FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT, SAMPLES
OR PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS,
CONTACT:

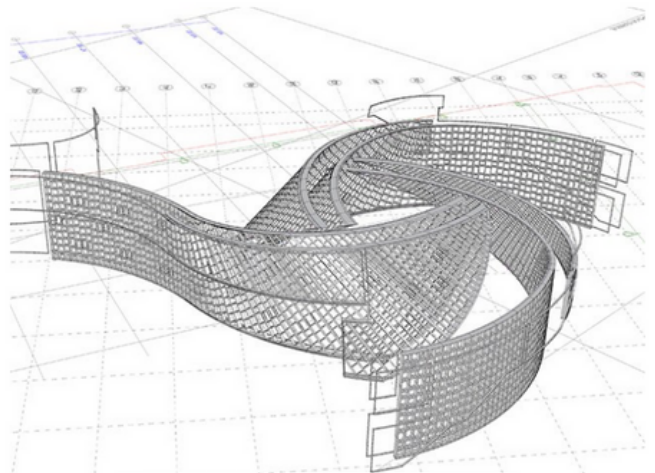
01227 281140

enquiries@acoustic-products.co.uk

Initial concept design for the Vortex



3D visualisation of the Vortex



Acoustic Solution

To meet this challenge, Topperfo Micro panels were integrated across the curved wall surfaces, supplied pre-numbered and categorised from the Topakustik factory to enable precise installation by Taylor Made Joinery.

Key performance details from the project specification:

- Topperfo Micro 3/3/0.5 (aw 0.60, Absorption Class C, NRC 0.81)
- Micro-perforations of 0.5 mm - virtually invisible beyond close viewing range
- Panels coordinated to align with the complex geometry of the walls

The micro-perforated system provides broadband absorption without altering the appearance of the American Red Oak finish.

By working with the angled walls, the panels help reduce reverberation time, moderate sound pressure levels and prevent the build-up of disruptive reflections typical in atrium-scale volumes.

The result is an environment that feels warmer, more composed and more conducive to informal interaction - supporting Bloomberg's focus on collaboration and transparency.

Material & Finish

The Vortex is clad entirely in American Red Oak, chosen for its warmth, grain quality and ability to accentuate the sculptural curves of the space.

Topperfo Micro panels were finished to match this surface exactly, ensuring a continuous material expression without visible acoustic intervention.

As shown in the project images, the uniformity of tone and jointing reinforces the seamless visual flow of the Vortex form, allowing the acoustic system to operate silently in the background.



TOPPERFO®-Micro-Panels

With TOPPERFO-Micro, the sound absorption function becomes almost completely invisible. The perforation measures a mere 0.5 mm (or even 0.3 mm), so it is virtually invisible from a certain distance. TOPPERFO micro-perforation is available in various grids and diameters, depending on the required level of sound absorption. The choice of surface coverings is also virtually unrestricted. All veneers and paint colours are available, as well as CPL and HPL surfaces by arrangement.



2/2/0.5

Other Micro-products:

- Micro-Planks 128 mm
- Micro-Graphic
- Micro-Eco Collection
- Micro on your care
- Micro-Cabinet Doors

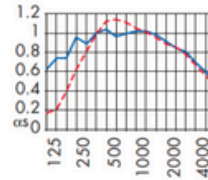
Ask for more information.

Sound absorption data acc. to ISO 354

With acoustic fleece and mineral wool: 40 mm (60 kg/m³)

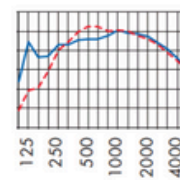
TOTAL THICKNESS
 — ca. 226 mm
 - - - ca. 66 mm

2/2/0.5



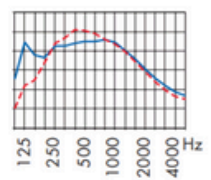
αw	Euro	NRC
0.80 L	B	0.93
0.75 IM	C	0.95

1.8/1.8/0.5



αw	Euro	NRC
0.90	A	0.93
0.90	A	0.95

3/3/0.5



αw	Euro	NRC
0.60 IM	C	0.81
0.55 IM	D	0.84

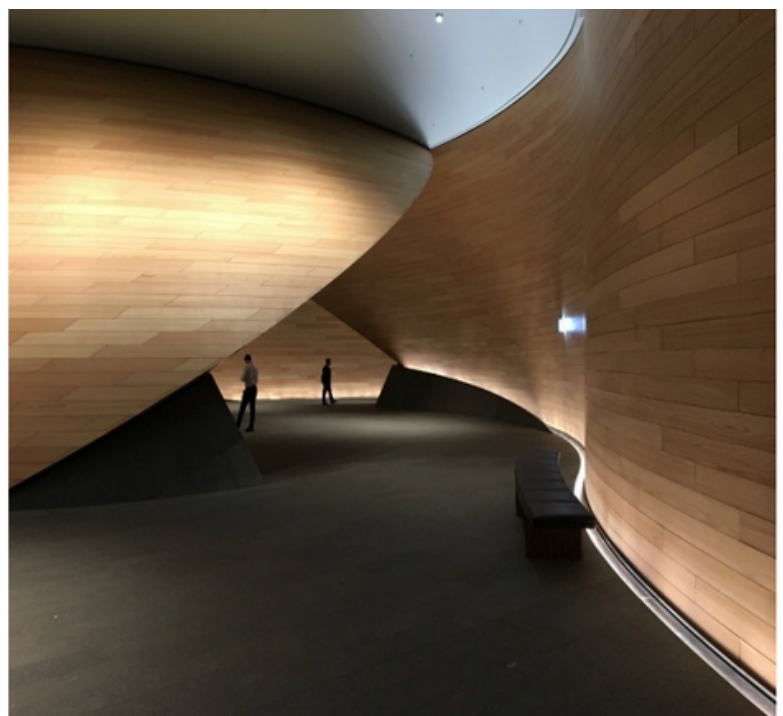
Dimensions and Materials

Core panel	not fire rated D-s2,d0 (DIN B2)			fire retardant B-s2,d0 (DIN B1)			non-flammable*	
Surface/ Thickness	Paint 16 mm	Wood Veneer 17 mm	Melamine 16 mm	Paint 16 mm	Wood Veneer 17 mm	Melamine 16 mm	Paint 16 mm	Wood Veneer 17 mm
Panels	max. in mm 3648 × 1216	max. in mm 3648 × 1216	max. in mm 3648 × 1216	max. in mm 3648 × 1216	max. in mm 3648 × 1216	max. in mm 3648 × 1216	max. in mm 3080 × 1216	max. in mm 3080 × 1216
	ideal: in mm 2032 × 992	ideal: in mm 2032 × 992	ideal: in mm 2032 × 992/640	ideal: in mm 2032 × 992/640	ideal: in mm 2032 × 992/640	ideal: in mm 2032 × 992/640	ideal: in mm 1540 × 608	ideal: in mm 1540 × 608
	2780 × 992	2780 × 992	2780 × 992/640	2780 × 992/640	2780 × 992/640	2780 × 992/640	2540 × 608	2540 × 608
	3648 × 640	3648 × 640			3640 × 640		3080 × 608	3080 × 608

The micro-perforation is provided in fields with a width of around 150 mm. In sided light, it is possible that the excess length between the individual fields becomes visible on UniEco decors or if a dark colour varnish is used. The grid 1.8/1.8 is therefore not recommended for these surfaces. For a grid of 2/2, we recommend to provide samples.

ideal means optimal use of MDF core – custom lengths are also available
 Date 2019 – please check the current dimensions on www.topakustik.com

* Absorption data on request





Project Outcome

The completed Vortex demonstrates how acoustic performance can be integrated into bold architectural geometry without compromise. The space remains visually striking while achieving a softer, more controlled sound environment that supports movement, conversation and orientation.

As stated in Michael Bloomberg's reflection on the project:

"This building is designed to encourage cooperation and collaboration, and that's what makes for a successful business."

The integrated acoustic treatment plays a quiet but essential role in enabling that vision.



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