



# DESIGN MUSEUM, LONDON

**Architects:** John Pawson Architects

**Main Contractor:** Willmott Dixon

**Joinery Contractor:** Realm Projects

**Products:** Topakustik Topperfo Micro  
2/2/0.5

**Finish:** Oak Veneer with a bespoke  
white-wash finish

**Completed:** 2016

**Photographer:** Gareth Gardner

## Project Overview

The Design Museum's move to its Kensington home required the transformation of a landmark building into a contemporary cultural destination. John Pawson Architects led the architectural vision, developing calm, minimal interiors that frame the museum's exhibitions and public spaces. To maintain this sense of sculpted stillness while controlling reverberation throughout large open volumes, the project team integrated Topakustik acoustic timber panels, supplied and supported by Acoustic Products, across circulation areas, learning spaces and gallery zones.




[acoustic-products.co.uk](http://acoustic-products.co.uk)

## Design Challenge

The museum's interior architecture is defined by broad planes of timber, clean lines and restrained materiality. Within this palette, the acoustic strategy needed to be equally unobtrusive - delivering effective absorption without interrupting the visual clarity of the design. Large volumes, hard surfaces and a high visitor footfall introduced the potential for excessive reverberation, particularly in transitional and public areas. Any acoustic intervention had to meet performance requirements while remaining visually cohesive with John Pawson Architect's minimal aesthetic.

## Products Used

TOP)A)K)U)S)T)I)K 

Topperfo Micro 2/2/0.5 - Absorption Class A,  
NRC 0.95

Finish: Oak Veneer with a bespoke white-wash stain

FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT, SAMPLES  
OR PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS,  
CONTACT:

 01227 281140

 [enquiries@acoustic-products.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@acoustic-products.co.uk)

# Acoustic Solution

To achieve this balance, the project team specified Topperfo Micro 2/2/0.5, a micro-perforated timber panel system designed to deliver high levels of sound absorption while appearing visually seamless.

- With perforations of just 0.5 mm, the acoustic treatment remains almost imperceptible at eye level.
- The system provides an absorption coefficient of  $\alpha_w$  0.90 (Absorption Class A, NRC 0.95), ensuring effective reverberation control across public areas.
- Panels were integrated into wall linings and ceilings to maintain consistency throughout key spaces while supporting wayfinding and the museum's overall spatial calm.

This approach allowed acoustics to be embedded within the architecture rather than added onto it - an essential principle for the project.

# Material & Finish

The panels were finished in Oak veneer, carefully treated with a bespoke white-wash stain to reflect the project's muted tonal palette.

Particular attention was given to:

- Grain matching across adjacent panels
- Colour consistency between batches
- Alignment and panel proportion to maintain the museum's disciplined geometry

The result is a finish that feels integral to the interior architecture while continuing to perform acoustically across varied spaces.

# Acoustic Product System Used

## 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

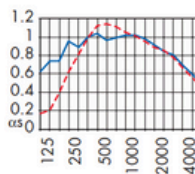
With acoustic fleece and mineral wool: 40 mm (60 kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

TOTAL THICKNESS

— ca. 226 mm

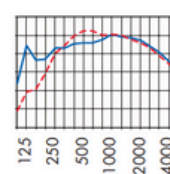
----- ca. 66 mm

2/2/0.5



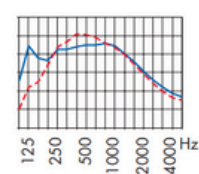
$\alpha_w$	Euro	NRC
0.80 L	B	0.93
0.75 LM	C	0.95

1.8/1.8/0.5



$\alpha_w$	Euro	NRC
0.90	A	0.93
0.90	A	0.95

3/3/0.5



$\alpha_w$	Euro	NRC
0.60 LM	C	0.81
0.55 LM	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*	
	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 x 1216	max. in mm 3648 x 1216	max. in mm 3648 x 1216	max. in mm 3648 x 1216	max. in mm 3648 x 1216	max. in mm 3648 x 1216	max. in mm 3080 x 1216	max. in mm 3080 x 1216
	ideal: in mm 2032 x 992	ideal: in mm 2032 x 992	ideal: in mm 2032 x 992/640	ideal: in mm 2032 x 992/640	ideal: in mm 2032 x 992/640	ideal: in mm 2032 x 992/640	ideal: in mm 1540 x 608	ideal: in mm 1540 x 608
	2780 x 992	2780 x 992	2780 x 992/640	2780 x 992/640	2780 x 992/640	2780 x 992/640	2540 x 608	2540 x 608
	3648 x 640	3648 x 640			3640 x 640		3080 x 608	3080 x 608

ideal means optimal use of MDF core – custom lengths are also available

\* Absorption data on request

Date 2019 – please check the current dimensions on [www.topakustik.com](http://www.topakustik.com)

The micro-perforation is provided in fields with a width of around 150mm. 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.

## Project Outcome

The completed Design Museum delivers an environment where clarity, calm and acoustic comfort support the visitor experience. Reverberation is moderated without disrupting the purity of the architectural expression, allowing exhibitions, learning spaces and communal areas to function effectively even at peak occupancy. By combining micro-perforated acoustic performance with a refined material finish, the project demonstrates how acoustic integration can reinforce – rather than compromise – architectural intent.



[acoustic-products.co.uk](http://acoustic-products.co.uk)

FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT, SAMPLES OR PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS, CONTACT:

📞 01227 281140

✉ [enquiries@acoustic-products.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@acoustic-products.co.uk)