Texaa®

Press Pack
April 2023

textile acoustics architecture

Contents

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Texaa and our vocation: textile, acoustics, architecture

Contributing to architecture by controlling reverberation inside spaces.

We have all had the unpleasant experience of a room in which sounds and words echo and collide with each other, and cause bewildering noise and confusion. This is reverberation.

Texaa, which stands for TEXtile, Acoustics and Architecture, offers solutions to combat this phenomenon for acousticians, architects, building owners and building contractors.

Texaa is a family business located just outside Bordeaux in France. For over 40 years in its workshop, it has designed and manufactured products to order that reduce reverberation times in spaces, thereby improving acoustic comfort.

Texaa's acoustic absorption systems are hidden by covers made of a sound-transparent fabric that is both warm and pleasant to the touch, called Aeria. This look, along with the technical properties of the products, are what makes Texaa unique. The fabric is manufactured using a proprietary process on knitting machines in the Texaa workshop.

Designers have many inspiring shapes and colours to choose from in the range of solutions offered by Texaa that are free-standing, fixed to ceilings or walls, or installed in interior spaces. They are used in all types of projects in France, Europe or internationally.

The Texaa range has been built up from a series of innovations that are often pioneering concepts in its markets.

For example, Texaa was the first to remove acoustic panels from walls, creating the technique of noise control using isolated objects. For several years, we have worked more specifically to reduce our environmental footprint, especially by increasing the proportion of biosourced and recycled materials in our products, and by lengthening their useful life by refurbishing and reusing them.

> Creating acoustic environments that are easier to live in, and both people- and environmentally friendly.

Reception area of the Clamart town hall south-west of Paris.
Architects: Bigeault-Taïb & Associates, 2020.
Vibrasto cladding on the ceiling.

50
employees.

9.77 million
in sales in 2021.

100 %
of Texaa products are manufactured in our workshop in Gradignan outside Bordeaux.

100 %
of Texaa products are manufactured to order for specific customers and projects.

2
types of stitch.

30
colours of the Aeria sound-transparent fabric.

Full national coverage in France with a network of customer care managers employed by Texaa.

22 %
share of export sales with salaried customer care managers in UK and Germany, and partners in the US and many other European countries. From time-to-time projects are carried out further from home, recently in Vietnam and Saudi Arabia.

100 %
of Texaa products bear a French A+ health label.

An average of 44 %
of materials used to make Vibrasto acoustic cladding (the largest-selling product) are recycled.

A fabric with colours

A fabric knitted on proprietary machines covers and identifies all Texaa products

A fabric for architecture

Our Aeria fabric is knitted in the Texaa workshop following a proprietary process. It is sound-transparent, and for this reason is ideal for covering and protecting the sound-absorbing units without hindering their performance. In some installations, Aeria fabric is also used to cover and protect other technical devices, such as lighting, sensors, loudspeakers, etc.

Its stitch pattern, which is more or less visible depending on the distance it is viewed at, gives it a warm, soft feel. It is available in two stitch sizes and 30 colours.

To maintain its bright appearance, it is enough to brush and vacuum-clean it once per year.

Because it is so durable, products can be dismantled and reinstalled as part of large-scale reuse strategies, sometimes up to 15 or 20 years after their original installation. Fabric covers can be removed, which makes cleaning easier.

Its characteristics make it hard-wearing and easy to clean:

Run-resistant
because of the way it is knitted

Highly fire-resistant
Classed B-s1, d0 according to NF EN 13501-1

Resistant to abrasion
Rates more than 30,000 cycles in the Martindale test described in NF EN 12947-2.

Guaranteed 10 years

Antistatic and dust-proof
$7.10^{10}\,\Omega$ following NF EN 1149-1

Water repellent
Hydro- and oleophobic ≥ 5 on a scale of 1 to 8 as defined in AATCC118 and AATCC193

Stable colours over time
≥5 on a scale of 1 to 8 defined in ISO 105-B02

In the Texaa workshop in Gradignan outside Bordeaux, yarn is threaded through the combs of the knitting machine. Here, the special 'Pavage (Odezenne Edit)' heather is being prepared.

A palette for designers

Granit GMR980

Nacre GMR640

Granit MR980

Nacre MR640

Chiné graphique MR140

Chiné noir MR150

Chiné brun MR120

Chiné naturel MR130

Graphite MR520

Gris pierre MR350

Quartz MR300

Silex MR950

Taupe MR680

Beige MR930

Ciment MR700

Craie MR630

Buyers not only choose between products when ordering, they also select one of several colours.

Texaa pursues its craft with a sense of service to architecture, and we have always attached great importance to offering a wide range of colours.

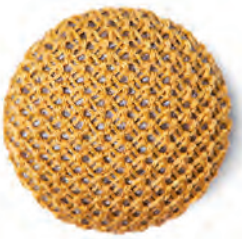
The colour catalogue is periodically revised.

The present range of colours was devised in 2020. It includes 30 tints, both bold and basic, shades of grey from very cold to very warm, and heathers.

It was conceived by Christine Bernos, an architect and colour specialist.

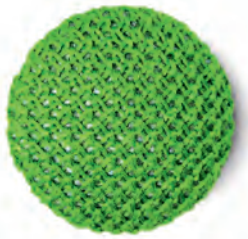

Ivoire MR940


Moutarde MR580

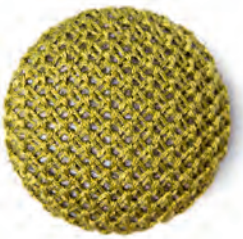

Cumin MR920


Vert beige MR670


Fougère MR650

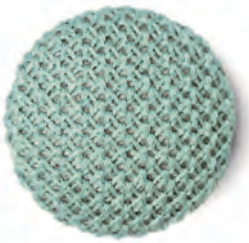

Prairie MR480


Vert cactus MR550


Lichen MR660

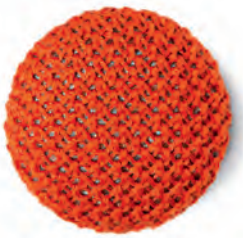

Océan MR340

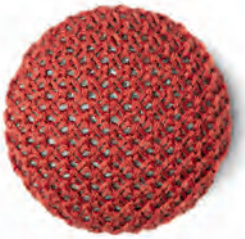

Bleu étang MR360

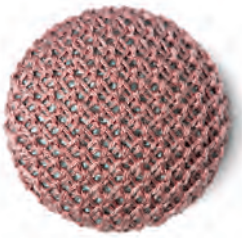

Bleu menthe MR370


Bleu nocturne MR310


Rouge MR470


Brique MR620


Rose rubis MR320


Vieux rose MR330

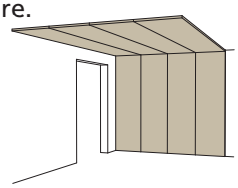
Our range of solutions

With the Texaa range, designers and acousticians can find solutions for any project. With their Aeria fabric covers, products can be matched separately or combined together.

Vibrasto

Acoustic cladding

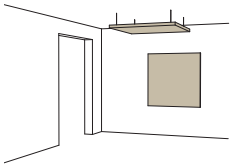
Texaa's hallmark product Vibrasto is flexible acoustic cladding that can be stretch-fitted to ceilings, walls, fittings and furniture. It is available in three thicknesses with different levels of performance depending on the project.



Stereo

Acoustic panels

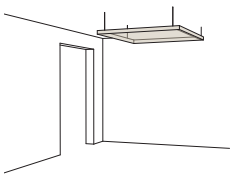
Texaa was the first to reduce reverberation inside spaces using stand-alone items by detaching Stereo panels from partitions. The technique has gradually become an architectural standard.

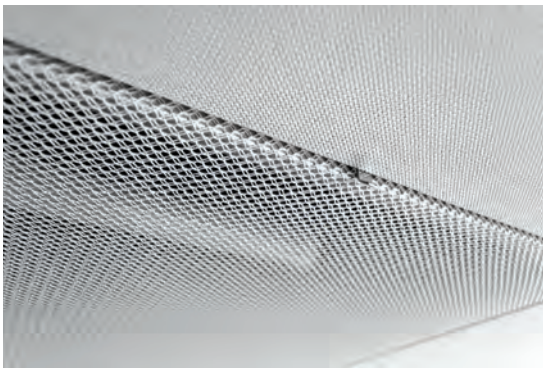


Stereo Air

Sound-absorbing panels

Stereo Air panels with their large open stitch can be used to partially conceal equipment above them or to scatter light from a lighting unit, while enabling air to circulate and heat inside the building to radiate.

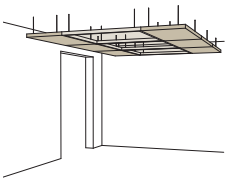




Strato

Ceilings

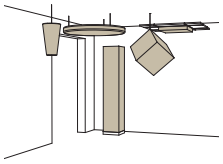
Strato ceilings are made up of a combination of opaque panels and others that are slightly transparent, which conceal or include MEP components.

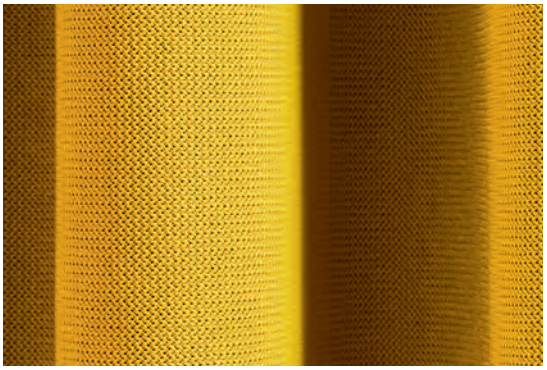


Abso

Acoustic Objects

Abso objects include Cushions, Pads, Totems, Cubes and Cones. They provide extremely effective sound absorption qualities for such light, easily installed items.

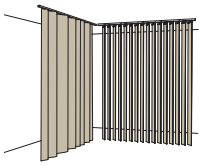




Curtains and Blinds

To absorb sound and for soundproofing

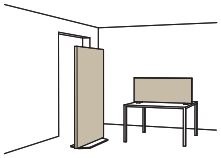
Sound-absorbing acoustic curtains reduce reverberation inside a space. Soundproofing curtains lessen the transmission of sound from one space to another. The latter also serve to absorb sound as well as their insulating function. Hung in front of a glazed surface, blinds absorb reverberation, scatter light and improve comfort inside the room.



Kora

Acoustic screens

In shared spaces, Kora acoustic screens can be used to create small-scale individual comfort, while organising what is visible and what is not, and controlling reverberation and sound transmission.



Every consignment is made to order for a specific customer and project. As well as our range of solutions which meet most requirements, Texaa, with the expertise of its people, is able to analyse special needs and offer customised systems.

Practically everything is possible in terms of different shapes or colours, special printed finishes or a variety of sound-absorbing materials.

We have also worked in partnership with artists.

Continuous innovation

Our range is the result of 40 years of development that maintains the best innovations over the years. Here are our latest refinements and inventions.

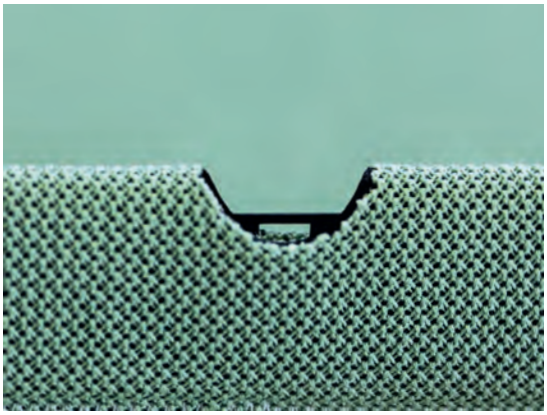
In 2018

The legacy product in the range, Vibrasto acoustic cladding was totally reinvented to improve its environmental footprint. Texaa stopped using polyurethane foam, made the product lighter and changed the installation system, replacing adhesives with battens made of recycled materials, so that all components can be separated when the product reaches the end of its useful life. At the same time, the make-up of the sound-absorbing materials used in Stereo panels and Abso objects was changed to reduce VOC (volatile organic compound) emissions. Since then, all Texaa products have been classified A+ in the French health labelling system.

Vibrasto cladding on the walls and ceiling in Le Pollen restaurant in Avignon, 2021

In 2019

The fittings accompanying our vertical blinds were significantly developed with the introduction of a hanger plate designed to suspend the slats much closer to the rail, thereby eliminating 96% of light when closed. 90% of the absorbent material is also recycled and it is manufactured in France. This new version is being patented internationally. It is more effective both acoustically and in terms of light elimination and thermal comfort.



Acoustic blind protected on both sides in the recording studios of Francophone Christian Radio (RCF) in Annecy in south-eastern France, 2021.

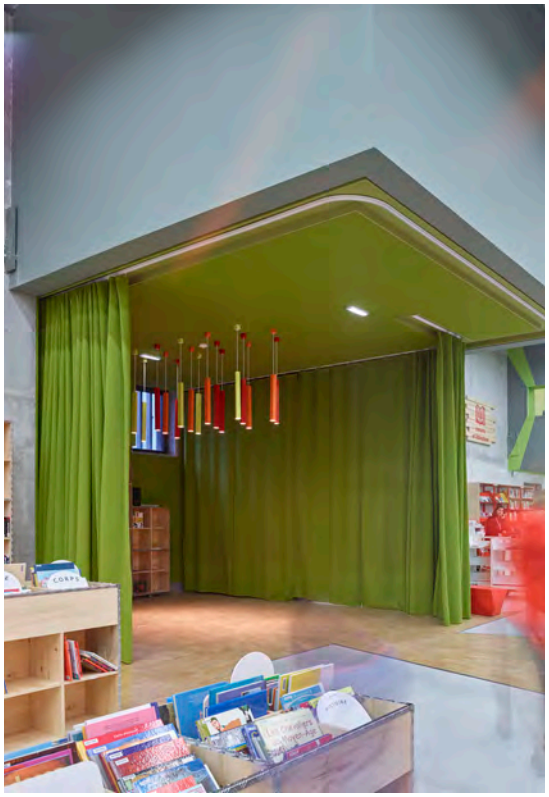
In 2021

Kora screens were added to the range. Light and modular, they are available in large sizes to be positioned on the floor, or in small formats for use on tables. They are an important innovation for Texaa and serve the objective of increasing the proportion of biosourced materials by using wood both visibly (locally sourced pine feet) and invisibly (5-mm-thick MDF core). They not only absorb reverberation but dampen sound too.

In 2023

Texaa widened its product range by developing the first soundproofing acoustic curtains, which provide significant sound insulation. Made with a core of six thicknesses of microporous film, these new curtains improve the acoustic comfort of a space by reducing reverberation inside it, while dampening the transmission of sound to neighbouring areas. These “ready-to-hang” curtains provide a sound reduction index of 10 dB.

A Kora acoustic screen placed on a table.
Colour: MR120 (Chiné brun). Wooden feet.



Texaa soundproofing acoustic curtains to partition an area in the Alpha media library of Greater Angouleme in south-western France. Architects: Loci Anima, 2015.

Architectural acoustics

The solutions that we design and manufacture at Texaa reduce reverberation in interior spaces.
For us, acoustics is not about hiding materials behind a fabric with appealing colours. Acoustics means using the fabric and shapes required to meet quantified objectives set by acousticians and designers in accordance with the use to which a space is to be put.
In this way, Texaa is clearly an architectural provider in its own right.

Controlling reverberation in interior spaces

The concept addresses the distribution of sound propagated inside a room. This is very different from sounds that enter from the outside. The former is controlled by absorbing the sound inside the space itself. The latter is about insulating the space from the outside. Controlling reverberation by absorbing sound was first described and formulated mathematically by Wallace Clement Sabine at Harvard University, who is therefore the inventor of architectural acoustics, which is the business that Texaa specialises in.

In small and large rooms, Texaa products absorb sound waves and reduce their reverberation time. Speech becomes easier to understand and the experience of sounds in the room becomes more comfortable.

Texaa's products can be installed in a variety of ways, making it possible to apply solutions:

- In any area, where the acoustics can be improved: on ceilings, walls, inside the space itself, in front of glazing and with furniture.
- In all types of space: connecting spaces such as train stations and airports, care-giving spaces such as hospitals and play schools, workspaces such as coworking areas and meeting rooms, celebratory spaces such as bars and restaurants, and technical spaces such as recording studios and lecture halls.
- To manage sound uniformly in the space, or differently from one area to another depending on how they are to be used, for example to create privacy in spaces such as shared offices or in restaurants.

Stereo panels suspended from the ceiling of a Food Court in Lille.
Architect: Yann Martin of CUT architectures, 2021.

Measuring our products' acoustic performance

To measure, test and develop the acoustic performance of Texaa products, we have an acoustic test laboratory featuring a reverberation chamber inside our workshop.

The principle is straightforward: we generate sounds and measure the reverberation times of their different frequencies depending on the type of product in the chamber, how it is installed and the quantity of them employed.

Recordings and measurements are then supplied to acousticians and designers, who can also request specific tests for their own purposes. The goal is to enable designers to model the acoustic environment that they propose to meet the requirements of the project in a relevant way, while creating comfort for users of the space.

↳ **For more details**
www.texaa.com/acoustics/

Our Corporate Social Responsibility policy

For ten years, at Texaa we have measured the environmental footprint of our products, so as to control and improve it.

Product life, innovation, protection

Innovation and development at Texaa are organised around three main goals:
– Long-lasting products
– Continuous innovation to be able to meet changing requirements in architecture
– Protecting health and the environment

At Texaa we have always striven to act responsibly by:
– Manufacturing our products locally
– Making sure our products last a long time and are repairable
– Reducing the impact of our operations on health and the environment

Today, our Research and Development department focuses on three ways of improving our carbon footprint:
– Reducing the proportion of non-recycled components
– Making greater use of biosourced materials, such as wood and linen
– Generalising the reuse of installed products

Comparative data and applicable data

Texaa has measured the environmental impact of its products since 2010 and publishes the data in Environmental Product Declarations accessible on its website. In this way, Texaa complies with the most recent French building code.

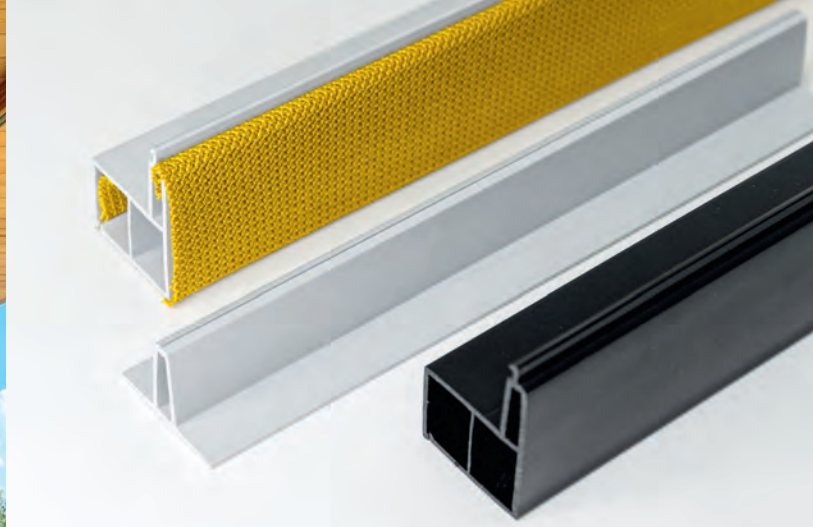
To go further and compare the impact of its solutions in architectural applications, Texaa supplies the data to enable each product's performance to be calculated per absorption unit. This information expresses the effect per square metre of space to be acoustically improved (rather than per square metre of product), which varies from solution to solution.

Since 2015, Texaa has commissioned analysts to use these calculations in order to identify the most effective ways in which it can improve its environmental policies, and is thus able to steer its impact on climate change.

Since 2018, all Texaa products have carried a French A+ health label and are compliant with the German AgBB protocol, which certifies that they have obtained the best score possible with regard to volatile organic compound (VOC) and formaldehyde emissions.

↳ **For more details**
www.texaa.com/workshop/environnement/

Linen Vibrasto on a door



Vibrasto tensioning battens made entirely of recycled materials

Reuse

Renewing covers

Linen Aeria for the Bordeaux Museum
of Decorative Arts and Design, 2021

The story of a workshop

Texaa is a Bordeaux family firm that has always based its business on craftmanship.
The Texaa story is one of a series of innovations that ended up as a full product range. It is also about a business that moved from Bègles south of Bordeaux to Gradignan out west.
The company controls the quality of its products by working with its own in-house teams who have patiently acquired skills and expertise.

Key passages in a story of more than forty years

1979

Bernard Demptos bought the company Fatexaa, which manufactured open-mesh fabric components for various markets, having grown out of the hundred-year-old Bordeaux Passementerie Factory (MPB). Demptos renamed his acquisition Texaa, an acronym for Textile Acoustics Architecture. Fatexaa mainly supplied local shoe and leather goods manufacturers, but had also begun combining fabric and the first flexible foams to make "acoustic drapes". Demptos decided to focus the business on these acoustic applications for architecture by building it on these "open" fabrics, which are in fact sound-transparent. This is how the range of cladding materials used to decorate surfaces originated: it was called Vibrasto.

← The first Texaa logo designed by Daniel Dartois

1980

The company moved from Bordeaux city to the southern suburb of Bègles to be housed in a former cod drying facility.

1983

Texaa obtained its first European patent for its vertical slatted blinds, designed to control reverberation in rooms with glazed surfaces.

→ The Cordeliers media library at Lons-le-Saunier in eastern France

1986

Texaa introduced its Stereo panels for installation in indoor spaces and pioneered the technique of controlling interior acoustics by positioning sound-absorbing objects.
The technique has since become an architectural standard.

← Offices of the French newspaper Libération in Paris

1989

New premises built in Gradignan, south-west of Bordeaux, designed by architect Alain Triaud.

1992

The first extension of the building including a sound test laboratory.

1995

Floating acoustic clusters made by grouping panels together.

↑ Departmental Hall in Bayonne, south-west France

1998

A range of light, easy-to-install objects: Cones, Cubes and Totems.

← The temporary library in Paris's Pompidou Centre

1999

Workshop extended again.

2008

Matthieu Demptos joined Texaa to work in the Engineering department.

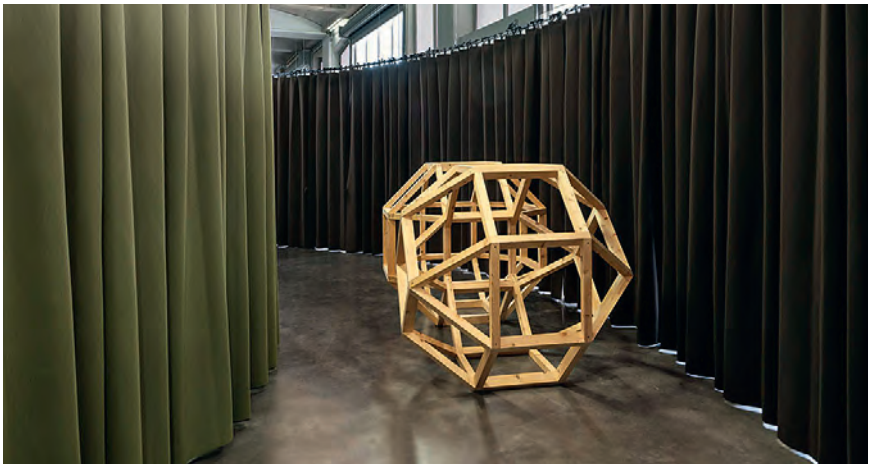
2010

Product life cycle analyses and carbon footprints calculated and published in Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs).

2000 – 2010

More and more ways are developed to install single- and double-sided Stereo panels, which become the "Swiss Army Knife" of acoustic comfort.

↑ Stereo panels installed to form a canopy



2012

Single- and double-sided sound-absorbing curtains launched after prototypes were trialled at the "Coulisses" exhibition organised for the 30th anniversary of the Aquitaine Regional Contemporary Art Foundation (Frac Aquitaine) in Bordeaux.

← "Coulisses" exhibition at the Aquitaine Regional Contemporary Art Foundation (Frac Aquitaine) in Bordeaux

2015

Cushions are added to the Abso range.

Matthieu Demptos took over management of Texaa, replacing his father, Bernard.

Development work done for the new Intesa Sanpaolo tower in Turin enabled Texaa to offer a more open Aeria stitch. This “grande maille ronde” (GMR) was then used to make the Strato open-mesh ceiling panel.

← The first Strato ceiling prototype in the Texaa workshop

2018

A new improved Vibrasto cladding product was launched with a significantly reduced environmental footprint and greater acoustic effectiveness (see page 12).

↑ Vibrasto cladding on the walls at Royal Holloway, University of London

2019

Launch of new, more effective blinds (see page 13).

2020

The new colour range with 30 shades (see page 8). It was launched in the middle of the pandemic lock-down, when Texaa, like the rest of Europe and the whole world, had to adapt from one day to the next. A new organisation was put in place, but production actually only stopped for a short while.

2021

Initial trials with Aeria made from linen with a view to increasing the use of biosourced materials.

Texaa was awarded the very venerable International Maritime Organisation’s certification for Aeria.

2022

Launch of the Kora range of acoustic partitions (see page 13).

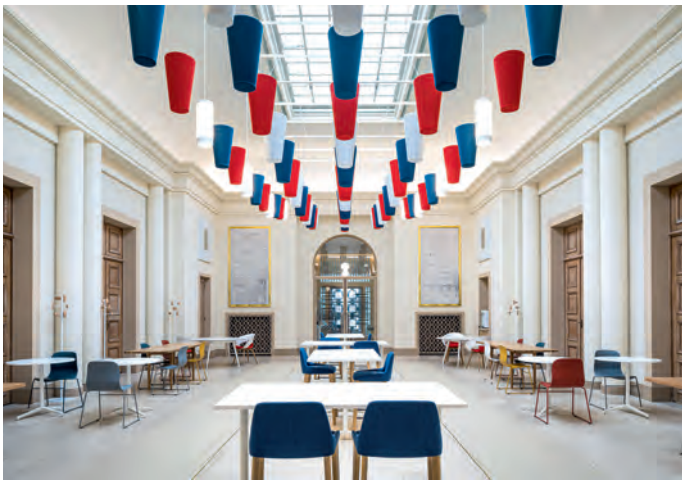
2023

Launch of the soundproofing acoustic curtain with a sound reduction index of 10 dB (see page 13).

→ Shared work areas in the Crown Estate building in Bessborough Street, London. Stiff+Trevillion Architects, 2021.

Applications and references

Stereo acoustic panels suspended from the ceiling as baffles in the Anthos office building in Boulogne-Billancourt in western Paris. Élizabeth Naud & Luc Poux Associated Architects, 2021.



Palais de l'Alma

Delivered in 2021

Principal French Presidency

Project Management, Architects Michel Goutal of *Agence Goutal – Architecture et Patrimoine*

Acoustician *AFL Acoustique*

Photographer Sergio Grazia

BP office building in Hungary

Principal BP

Delivered in 2020

Project Management, Architects DVM group

Interior Design
Mrs Ida Kiss and Mrs Tímea Tóth

Project acousticians Dr Csaba Huszty and Mr Tamás Illy of *Fejlesztő* Ltd

Photographer Zsolt HLINKA

Anthos office building

Delivered in 2020

Principal *Gécina*

Project Management, Architects Elizabeth Naud & Luc Poux Associated Architects

Photographer Hervé Abbadie

The Crown Estate, Bessborough Street

Delivered in 2021

Project Management, Architects
Tom Johnson of Stiff & Trevillion Architects

Acoustician ROUCH

Photographer Sylvaine Poitau

Les Guiblets gymnasium

Delivered in 2021

Principal Créteil City Hall

Photographer Hervé Abbadie

Michelin head office building in Clermont-Ferrand

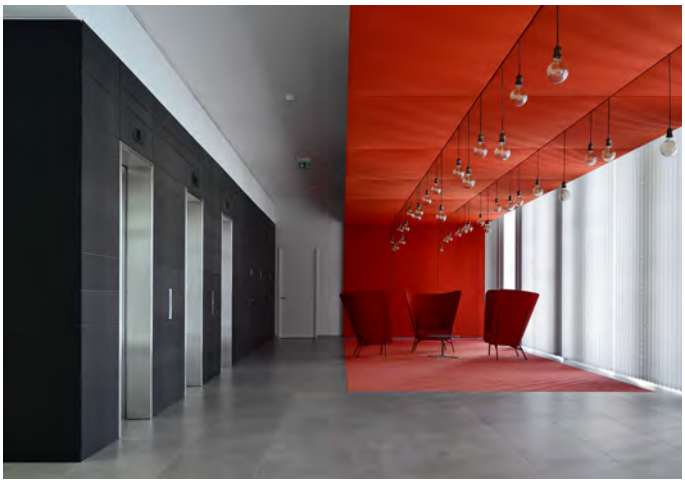
Delivered in 2020

Principal Michelin

Project Management, Architects
Project leader Romain Leal of *Encore Heureux*

Acoustician ROUCH

Photographer Cyrus Cornut



Kbis building

Delivered in 2020

Principal Icade Promotion

Project Management, Architects Project leader Michel Essertier of *Rue Royale Architects*

Photographer Erick Saillet

Climb Up Porte d'Italie

Delivered in 2021

Principal *Climb Up Porte d'Italie*

Photographer Hervé Abbadie

Totem and Tattoo exhibition at the Pompidou Centre

Delivered in 2014

Principal Centre Pompidou

Curator and scenographer Olivier Vadrot

Photographer DR

Kinémax film theatre at Futuroscope

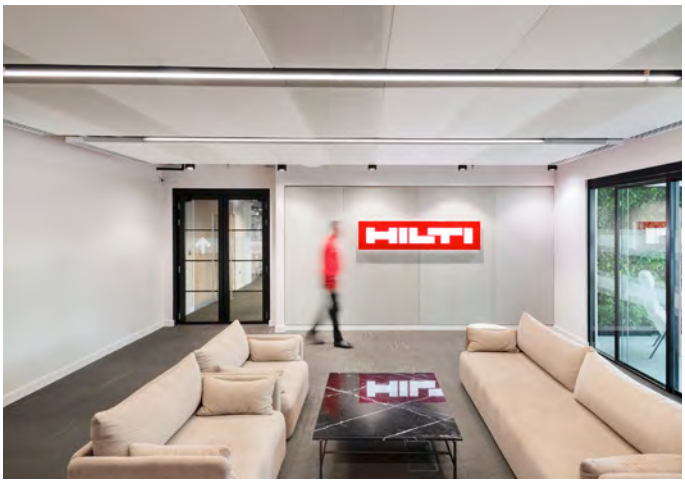
Principal La Vienne Departmental Council & *Futuroscope*

Delivered in 2016

Project Management, Architects David Joulin architecte

Acousticians *AFL Acoustique*

Photographer Thierry Seldubuisson



Hilti London head office

Delivered in 2021

Project Management, Architects Peter Pringle

Photographer Sylvaine Poitau

Technicolor

Delivered in 2019

Principal Technicolor

Project Management, Architects Studios Architecture, interior design by Adeline Boulnois

Photographer Hervé Abbadie

Clamart city hall

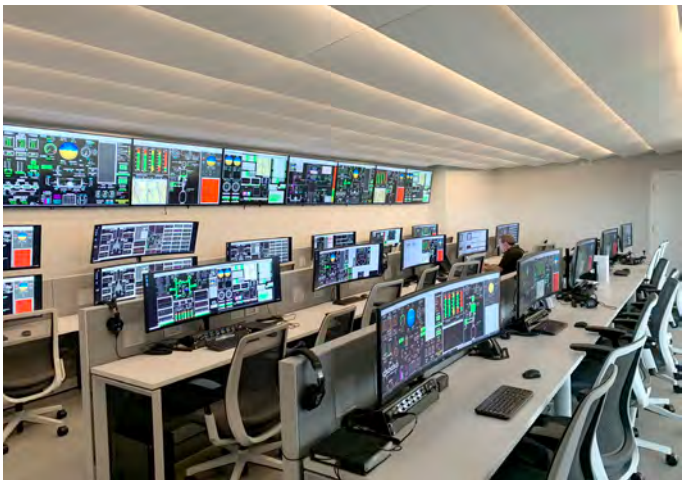
Delivered in 2020

Principal Clamart City Hall

Architects Bigeault-Taïeb & associates

Acoustician *ORFEA acoustique*

Photographer Hervé Abbadie



Spaceport America

Delivered in 2020

Principal Robert Mann

Building architect Foster + Partners

Architects Gautier Pelegrin of Viewport Studio, London

Photographer Robin Zielinski

MullenLowe Group London

Delivered in 2021

Principal MullenLowe Group London

Project Management, Architects Leila Dunning

Photographer Sylvaine Poitau

"Coulisses" exhibition

Delivered in 2013

Principal Claire Jacquet of Aquitaine Regional Contemporary Art Foundation (*Frac Aquitaine*)

Artist and Architect Olivier Vadrot

Photographer M+B

Reflections on architecture 2016

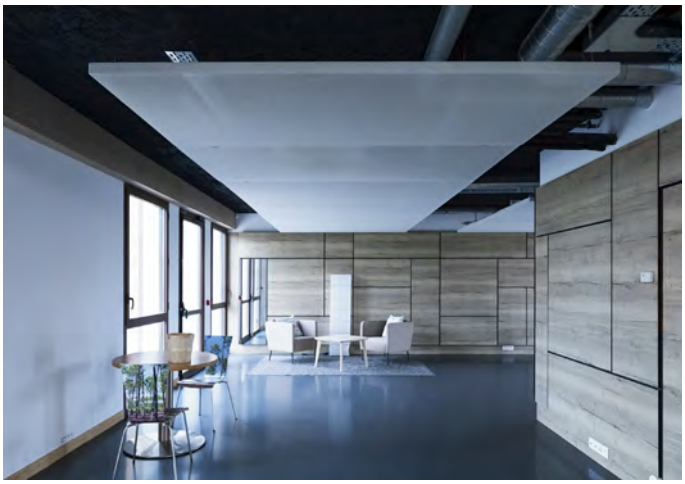
Delivered in 2016

City / Country Bordeaux, France

Principal *arc en rêve* architecture centre

Architect Michel Jacques

Photographer Ivan Mathie



Bordeaux Agro Sciences

Delivered in 2019

Principal Greater Bordeaux

Project Management, Architect Jean-Philippe Gras

Photographer Ivan Mathie

Gabriel Mann Studio

Delivered in 2018

Principal Robert Mann

Project Management, Architect Robert Crockett of Crockett Architects

Acoustician *AFL Acoustique*.

Photographer Mike Kelley

The Hermès Cité des Métiers in Pantin

Delivered in 2009

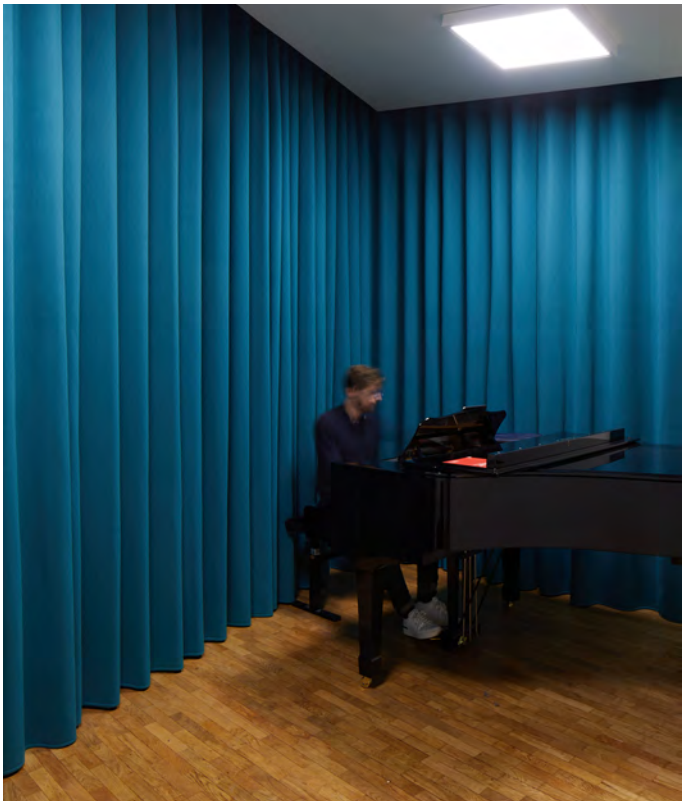
Principal Hermès

Project Management, Architect *RDAI Architecture*

Interior Design RDAI

Acoustician *CIAL*

Photographer Michel Denancé



National Higher Conservatory of Music and Dance in Paris

Delivered in 2021

Principal NHCMDP

Photographer Hervé Abbadie

Photos: Sergio Grazia p.2; Hervé Abbadie p.4, 21; Ivan Mathie p.10, 11, 12 top, 13 top, 15;
Studio Erick Saillet p.12 bottom right; Marie-Caroline Lucat p.12 bottom left; David Foessel p.14; Rémy-Pierre Ribiere p.17;
Michael Damen p.17; Stéphane Chalmeau p.13 bottom right; Sylvaine Poitau p.20 bottom left
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