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Studio Acoustics: A Study on Clemson University's Design Studio Environment

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Do the Acoustics in Different Studio Environments Affect a Student’s Performance?

METHODS
This study compared student perceptions of noise with acoustical benchmarks and studio-specific decibel readings. Decibel readings were conducted on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for one week at the two studio spaces. The times were between 9-10am and 1-2pm. In addition, a survey was distributed to the various disciplines in the Lee buildings. Responses were received from seventy-nine students.

CONCLUSIONS
Based on the testing and analysis from the acoustical readings, different design studio environments do impact a student’s performance. In this particular study, it is understood that these two studios vary greatly in occupancy and community regulations. Both studios also differ in size, shape and materiality, which affects how sound is reflected throughout the rooms.

RESOURCES


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POSITION STATEMENT
It is noticeably more distracting working in Clemson University’s new architecture building, nicknamed Lee II, than in the more enclosed studio spaces in the older architecture building, known as Lee I. The acoustics play a key role in this distraction.

The intent of this research analysis is to find out if the acoustics are negatively affecting the design studio learning environment at Clemson University. The study was done by conducting decibel readings in Architecture studios in Lee III and the Architecture + Health studio in Lee II.