

CISCA is the global premier authority for the interior construction, acoustical ceilings and acoustical treatment industry. Our IMA (Industry Marketing Advisory) group was recently tasked with providing a resource for acoustical solutions relating to ***Open Plenum Design***. ***Open Plenum Design*** invariably brings noise issues for the end-use and in many cases it is building owners that must look retroactively for solutions. The building owners then turn to the architectural community in search of products to accommodate specific spaces and problems. Often CISCA is asked for help and to provide resources for these issues. Some examples of what CISCA has encountered is employees in open spaces wearing headphones and occasionally restaurants that are being shunned because they are too noisy for a normal conversation. To respond to this need, CISCA compiled a resource for this specific situation.

CISCA is aware that many designers, in spite of the noise issue, will still want to utilize the open plenum look leaving a need for mitigating noisy acoustical issues. Fortunately CISCA has a national pool of manufacturers, independent reps, distributors and contractors within the association who regularly deal with these issues. CISCA is able to identify a number of different solutions to these challenges and can provide a convenient and concise [catalog](#) of solutions. These are solutions that provide many options and ideas to acoustical problems while maintaining the desired designed aesthetics. We show options on how to help attenuate sound in open areas and the solutions can be implemented before and after initial construction. CISCA does not promote individual products or manufacturers but CISCA provides a convenient repository of solutions to consider.

On a separate but related note, know that CISCA has detailed some of the [acoustical challenges](#) that come with open plenum design and in response also developed an [Office Acoustic Return on Investment Calculator](#). This calculator provides a relative cost benefit analysis for good acoustics in design.