

Case Study

The House of Disabled People's Organisations, Copenhagen, Denmark



Summary

The House of Disabled People's Organisations (Handicaporganisationernes Hus) is placed in Høje Tåstrup approx. 20 km west of Copenhagen centre and is called "The most accessible office building in the world", not without reason. 20 disability organisations and 5 other organisations occupy the building that boasts 310 workplaces covering 12.600 m² on 4 floors.

Many of the staff members of the organisations have different disabilities so the whole house has been designed with equal focus on modern office spaces and equal accessibility for everyone. The house encourages its users to think differently across professional competency and to create synergies between organisations. Therefore the house is seen as one big appealing workplace that insists on users coming together naturally across organisations and developing social connections, which can facilitate cross-professional cooperation.

Due to a close cooperation between architects, engineers and the Univox loop provider Scantone A/S, all reception desks, meeting and dining rooms and elevators have been equipped with hearing loop systems. Consideration has also been taken to the acoustical qualities of the building to reduce background noise and increase the possibility to understand what's being said.

Challenge

The reception desks welcoming staff and visitors are built in two different heights to facilitate for wheelchairs. Commencing from the reception area, using the elevators had to be easy to manage and safe for both sitting and standing users. Finally in the meeting rooms, that often were placed adjacent to, above or below each other, overspill had to be controlled.

Solution

Reception desks

Across-the-counter loop systems were installed at both ends in the main reception desk – the high left end for standing visitors and the right lower end for visitors in wheelchairs.

Lifts

All lifts were equipped with a loop system installed in the ceiling making it possible to hear staff instructions in case of emergency. The magnetic field



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strength was optimized at approx. 1.4 m above the floor allowing for standing as well as sitting users to hear at a good level.

Meeting rooms

The scope of the meeting rooms included both SLS loop systems, wireless microphones and the visual smart board solution. The SLS segment size had to be kept narrow to control overspill. In cases where the call for reduced overspill into a certain direction stood in conflict with the wish to have the direction of attention across the segments to allow for listeners bending their heads while taking notes, the overspill control had priority.

Dining room

One large SLS loop system covers the whole dining room making it possible to use it as a large meeting room, for example for staff meetings.

Conclusion

As hearing impairment is one of the major disabilities, facilitating for this group was one of the top priorities when designing the house. A "movement perspective" was applied, following the staff member or visitor through the entrance, passing the reception desk, upwards into the building through the elevators and ending up in the different meeting rooms or the dining room. Everyone should be able to hear all along the way.

Products used

SLS-300XF, Super Loop System® (Dining room)

SLS-100XF, Super Loop System® (Meeting rooms)

PLS-100 (Elevators, Safe zones, Info points, Reception desk)

Responsible company

Scantone A/S, Denmark

