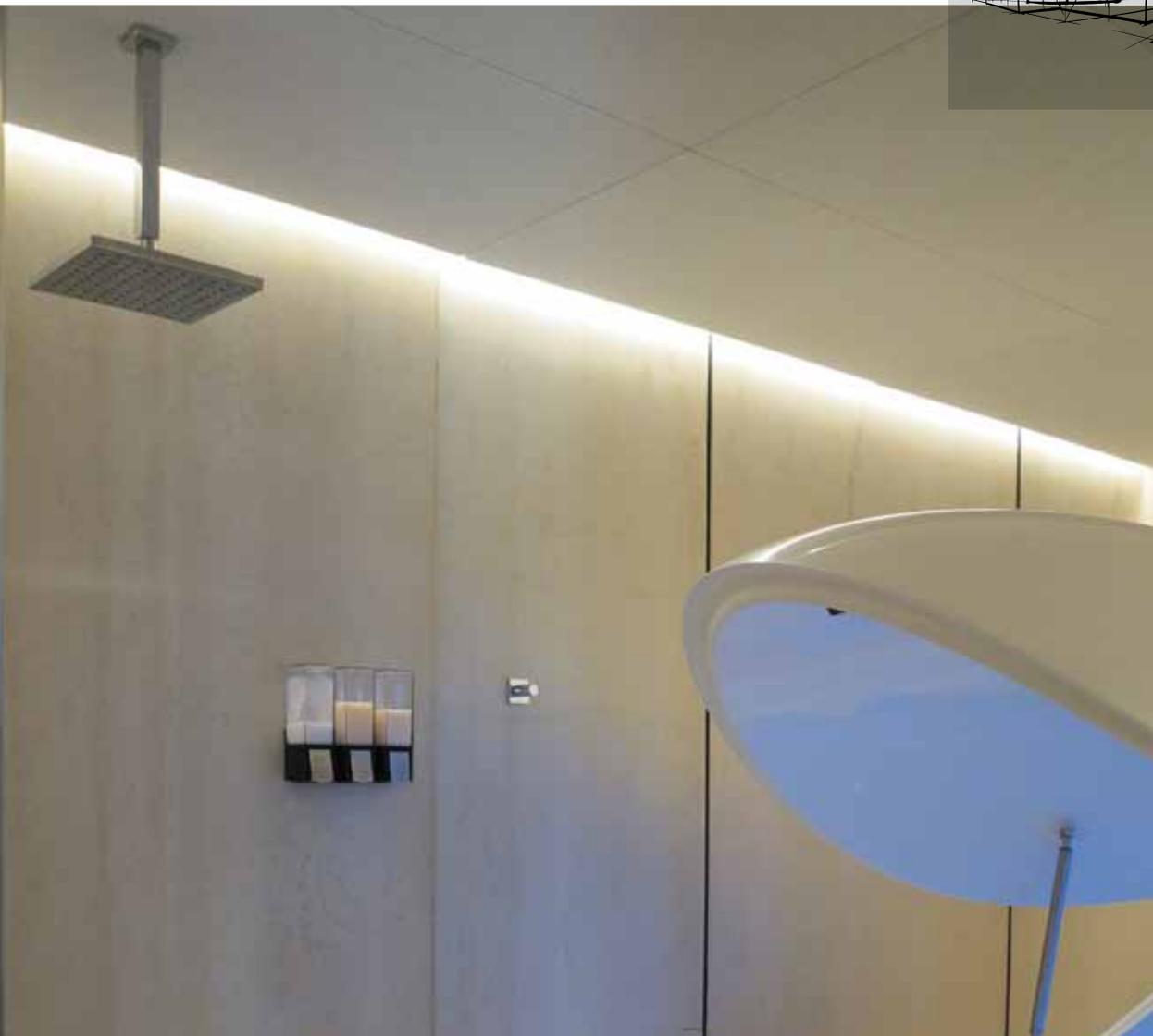
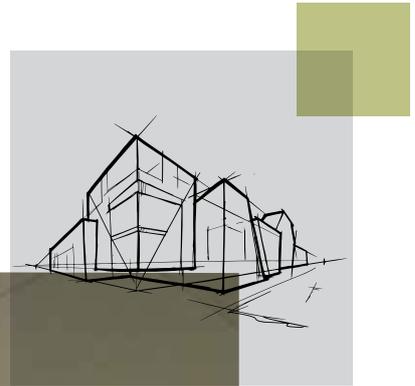


Perth Landmark Keeps the Silent Era Afloat

Case study





The Client

A noisy, bustling intersection in Perth's western suburbs may sound like an odd location for a business that requires absolute silence and darkness to cater to their clientele. Float Lab is housed in the renovated remains of the wartime era, Wembley Theatre building which imposes itself proudly on the corner of Cambridge and Station Streets.

The company's Wembley location is the third to open in the Perth area. The design team face a constant challenge to deliver an economically viable solution. Similar facilities often carry a hefty price tag of well in excess of \$200K per treatment room.

A floatation tank, or isolation tank as it also known, is partially filled with a salt water solution and heated to roughly the temperature of our outer skin.

The treatment requires the occupant to float on their back in a shallow, purified saline solution of Epsom salts. The experience is also known as sensory deprivation or float therapy, and may be used to reduce stress and anxiety, aid athletic performance and recovery, and improve meditation.

Dr. John C. Lilly at the US National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) as far back as 1954 introduced the technique. Lilly was convinced that sensory deprivation could be used as an aid during his neuropsychiatric sessions. It was not until 1972 that the idea was commercialised and the first float tanks became available.



The Design & Installation

Float Lab director, Aaron Hunter, is an active participant in the site selections and fit-outs that underpin his company's expansion in Western Australia.

"A high level of market research into the availability and suitability of new products is key," says Hunter.

Much of the construction cost is wrapped up in the need to separate the wet area used for pre-treatment showering from the space that houses the floatation pod itself. Hunter explains that he identified the unique acoustic, thermal and moisture performance attributes of Rockwool early in the process. He believed they would allow the design team to reproduce the experience of a large, more expensive room in a more compact format.

"The properties of the product were very well suited and a great fit for our specific purpose," continues Hunter. "The possibility of high performance thermal insulation contained within a wet area was very attractive. The easy direct fix installation without unsightly fixings and a great, aesthetic finish was a real bonus."

Ground level noise from the intersection was of prime concern to

the design team. Absolute silence within the float pod is optimum to the client's overall experience. Perth's notoriously warm summer and cool winter temperatures would also challenge the designers as they sought to maintain a year round ambient temperature inside the treatment room.

"The possibility of high performance thermal insulation contained within a wet area was very attractive."

Float Lab Director, Aaron Hunter

Rockfon Facett was used to absorb any reverberant noise emanating from the reception area, corridors and adjoining treatment rooms, including above the showerheads.

Rockfon Sonar was installed on the passageway ceilings between the treatment rooms to absorb reverberant noise.

Rockwool Safe 'n' Silent Pro 370 was used to reduce the ingress of noise from the street via the walls and ceiling.

The Result

“Top quality, high performance insulation is critical for our business,” continues Float Lab director Aaron Hunter. “We need to maintain absolute consistency across the board. Humidity, noise and ambient air temperature are paramount to our client’s satisfaction and therefore the success of our business.”

The ROCKWOOL and Rockfon products were specified by the Float Lab design team to deliver a clinical therapeutic facility adhering to world best practice.

Such is the esteem in which the Wembley facility is held that the company has collaborated researchers conducting psychological studies.

The owners are delighted with the energy savings in their heating and cooling costs each month.

“The energy savings are significant.”

Float Lab Director, Aaron Hunter

To deliver the highest quality treatment environment it was necessary to design and build soundproof rooms to house the pods. The Rockfon products were intrinsic in delivering a tailored acoustic system that achieved this outcome.

“Without Rockfon,” explains Hunter, “our design intent would have been far more difficult, both from a practical and financial perspective.”

“Based on my experience, I would recommend the Rockfon product range unreservedly,” concludes Hunter.

For more information on the performance, compliance and versatility of the ROCKWOOL and Rockfon® product range please go to www.ais-group.com.au

Project:	Float Lab
Location:	Wembley, WA
Description:	Light commercial
Products:	Rockfon Facett - 60mm Rockfon Sonar - 20mm Rockwool Safe 'n' Silent Pro 370 - 90mm

Available from:

