SoftZone™
Integrated Architectural Acoustic Lighting Solutions
Stencil SoftZone • Sculpt SoftZone
Stencil SoftZone horizontal sound-absorbing panels

Sculpt SoftZone vertical sound-absorbing panels
Acoustics play an important role in occupant performance and well-being in office interiors.

Noisy open office areas, sound-reflecting surfaces and other low-absorption design elements can increase the background din, distract occupants and contribute to lower productivity in the workplace.

SoftZone provides unparalleled design flexibility for creating architectural pendant lighting with effective sound attenuation properties.
About acoustics

Here are a few notions about sound absorption in enclosed spaces that will help you develop more acoustically effective workplaces, with the assistance of your Axis Lighting representative.

Sound absorption
When sound strikes a surface or a wall, some of it is reflected (reverberation), some of it is absorbed and some of it is transmitted to the other side. The nature of the obstacle determines how much sound is reflected, absorbed and transmitted.

A measure of a material’s performance is the absorption coefficient $\alpha$:  

$\alpha = 0$ if totally reflective  
$\alpha = 1$ if totally absorptive and/or transmissive
The more sound absorption you need, the more SoftZone™ panels you use in the space.
Different surfaces have different sound-absorbing properties. Porous matter, such as carpeting, wood and the material used for SoftZone, are very effective at absorbing sound. In comparison, hard and smooth surfaces, such as concrete, plate glass and metal, reflect acoustic energy and create reverberation that SoftZone panels help to absorb.
Why SoftZone™

SoftZone improves acoustics by enhancing speech clarity where needed and by preventing people’s conversations from disturbing other people. Here are the main benefits to combining sound attenuation and architectural lighting using SoftZone integrated solutions.

- **Affordability**
  Less costly than building separate acoustic tile ceilings.

- **Design Flexibility**
  Horizontal and vertical options, building system integration possibilities, large choice of colors and design-friendly shapes.

- **Layering**
  Leverage Stencil’s design capabilities to modulate layers of sound attenuation in addition to layers of light (ambient, accent, MikroLite™).

- **Scalability**
  Add SoftZone panels in step with the development needs of any space.

- **Adaptability**
  Create neighborhoods of noise control by using SoftZone where you need sound attenuation.

- **Cost-effective Retrofits**
  Stencil SoftZone panels can be easily reconfigured or added to existing Stencil Pendant layouts.
2’ Stencil SoftZone hexagonal panels and 4’ segmented hexagonal panels

SoftZone lets you set the mood with layers of light and set the tone with layers of sound attenuation.
2’, 3’ and 4’ Stencil SoftZone triangular panels

In this space, horizontal SoftZone panels partially fill an arrangement of open Y Stencil Pendant forms. Stencil SoftZone forms can be filled in partially or fully, and more sound-attenuation panels can be added as needed.
SoftZone™ at a glance

Use SoftZone to create neighborhoods of intimacy, whether you need more privacy in collaborative spaces, improved speech clarity in conference rooms or less reverberation in an area.

SoftZone is a flexible sound-absorbing pendant lighting design system available in horizontal (Stencil) and vertical (Sculpt) forms. It features a modular approach that lets you vary the quantity of panels required to achieve the desired level of sound attenuation.

- Panels made of 100% polyester containing at least 40% of recycled PET plastic
- Functional flexibility: Unlit SoftZone panels can be used for sound attenuation only
- Facilitates building system integration (sprinklers, speakers, etc.)
- Class A fire rated and moisture resistant
- Per-unit Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC): up to 1.05
- 15 colors to choose from (see page 8)
Color palette

Cotton  Tin  Concrete  Slate  Carbon
Sand  Cork  Copper  Bark  Earth
Purple  Ocean  Lemon  Lime  Brick
2’x2’, 4’x4’, 2’x4’ and 2’x6’ Stencil SoftZone square and rectangular panels

Rectangular Stencil forms accept SoftZone™ panels in a Mondrian pattern featuring a mix of colors that matches interior design elements.
Horizontal solutions: Stencil SoftZone™

Superior cost-effectiveness
The same amount of SoftZone material in horizontal panels provides almost twice the sound absorption of vertical panels. Horizontally positioned SoftZone panels are not only more effective at trapping sound, they are better at reducing visual clutter in comparison to their vertical counterparts.

Design flexibility
Horizontal SoftZone panels capitalize on the exceptional design freedom of Stencil Pendant. Together, they provide an effective, one-of-a-kind design tool for creating a wide variety of forms and patterns.

- Wide range of optics, segments (direct, indirect, blank) and lighting controls to layer lighting.
- Open and closed forms featuring full or partial paneling, as well as unlit SoftZone panels, to layer sound attenuation.
- Integration with building systems (e.g. sprinklers, ventilation) by creating openings through and between SoftZone panels.
4’ Stencil SoftZone triangular panels

By integrating SoftZone panels in Stencil Pendant, lighting professionals capitalize on Stencil’s remarkable design flexibility.
Stencil SoftZone™
Choice of optics

- Choice of Direct or Indirect (SurroundLite™)
- Use blanks to create unlit SoftZone panels
- SoftZone retrofits available
- Integral mini-driver
- Controls available
Stencil SoftZone™
Choice of panel forms

Horizontal SoftZone panels are compatible with a wide variety of Stencil Pendant forms and patterns.

- **Square**
  - 2' x 2', 3' x 3', 4' x 4'

- **Rectangle**
  - 2' x 8'
  - 2' x 7'
  - 2' x 6'
  - 2' x 5'
  - 2' x 4'
  - 2' x 3'

- **Hexagonal**
  - 2' full hexagon

- **Segmented Hexagon**
  - 2', 3' and 4' section lengths

- **Triangle 60°**
  - 2', 3' and 4' section lengths
Vertical solutions: Sculpt SoftZone™

Linear creativity
Combine SoftZone vertical panels with Sculpt Pendant luminaires to design appealing acoustic lighting environments that add linear rhythm while softening ambient noise levels.

Lit and unlit panels
Integrate lighting and sound attenuation as required in your lighting concepts by alternating between lit and unlit Sculpt SoftZone panels (see opposite).

An elegant frame and a flush appearance
The top of SoftZone vertical panels is level with the uplight optics of Sculpt Pendant luminaires, providing true indirect lighting and a sophisticated architectural esthetic.
12” x 6’ Sculpt SoftZone panels spaced 18” apart with lighting provided by Sculpt SoftZone Direct-Indirect luminaires (Lens, MikroLite™)

Sculpt SoftZone lets you create a design motif while increasing sound absorption by alternating lit panels (in blue) with unlit sound-attenuating panels (in grey).
Sculpt SoftZone™
Choice of optics

- Range of light distributions: Direct, Indirect, Direct/Indirect
- Use blanks to create unlit SoftZone panels
- Integral driver
- Controls available, including Axitune

Blank or Indirect
MikroLite™ 1.5
Spotless lens
StepLens (0.5” and 2”)
Accents
Sculpt SoftZone™

Choice of lengths

Linear lengths only. Geometric lighting forms not available with Sculpt SoftZone.
8’ Sculpt SoftZone Direct-Indirect luminaires (MikroLite™) and 12” x 8’ unlit Sculpt SoftZone panels spaced 18” apart
2’ Stencil SoftZone hexagonal panels
8’ Sculpt SoftZone Direct luminaires (flush lens) and 12” x 8’ unlit Sculpt SoftZone panels spaced 24” and 38” apart
See the difference. Hear the difference.

Create your very own SoftZone™ solution.

Design the optimal sound-attenuation layout with the assistance of your Axis representative.

Consult spec sheets at axislighting.com
2’x4’ Stencil SoftZone rectangular panels

Stencil SoftZone supports building system integration by accommodating openings through and between SoftZone panels for functional elements, such as sprinkler heads and air diffusers.
About Axis Lighting

Founded in 1991 and still family owned and managed, Axis is an important source for architectural lighting across North America and around the globe.

Over the last decade, the company has exhibited remarkable growth thanks to its commitment to Design Flexibility, Optimal Energy Efficiency and Responsive Customer Care. That leadership effort now extends to developing Innovative Lighting Technologies, such as SurroundLite™, on an ongoing basis.

On the strength of a broad and expanding product line, Axis has successfully completed lighting projects for high-profile clients including Apple, Chrysler, The Empire State Building, Google, Hyundai, Time Warner and McGill University, among many others.

Axis has the drive and the expertise to meet your needs and provide architectural lighting... your way.