









Dr. Becker Gábor

Introduction to Building Constructions

Comfort and  
General Building Requirements

[www.epszerk.bme.hu](http://www.epszerk.bme.hu)



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we create an artificial environment

what do we want? eg. a family home: the function is primary  
to feel fine both from a psychological and physical standpoint

realization is architecture

architecture = scientific + artistic creation  
civilization + culture

building constructions:

part of the scientific + artistic task

scientific (technical): a lasting assurance of  
the desired physical environment

artistic: detailing, visible structures and  
materials



the dual nature of Architecture

comfort and general building construction requirements



a lasting assurance of the desired physical environment:

## comfort requirements

- „objective” –measureable – requirements:
  - temperature (air, radiation – sun, cold wall etc.)
  - air state (composition, humidity, air motion etc.)
  - noise (internal-external, vibrations)
  - lighting (general, work area, glare problem etc.)
  - other measurables (radiation, electrosmog, chemicals etc.)
- „subjective” –immesurable requirements or those difficult to measure:
  - beauty, friendly nature, comfortable, homey etc.
  - aesthetic appearance
  - ergonomical disposition
  - psychologically positive effects



comfort requirements

comfort and general building construction requirements



## comfort requirements

- changes in time, space and culture
- minimal survival requirements
- needs accepted by the society  
change in space, time, and according  
to the social environment

self control: compare to the simple tent - what is wrong with it?



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comfort requirements

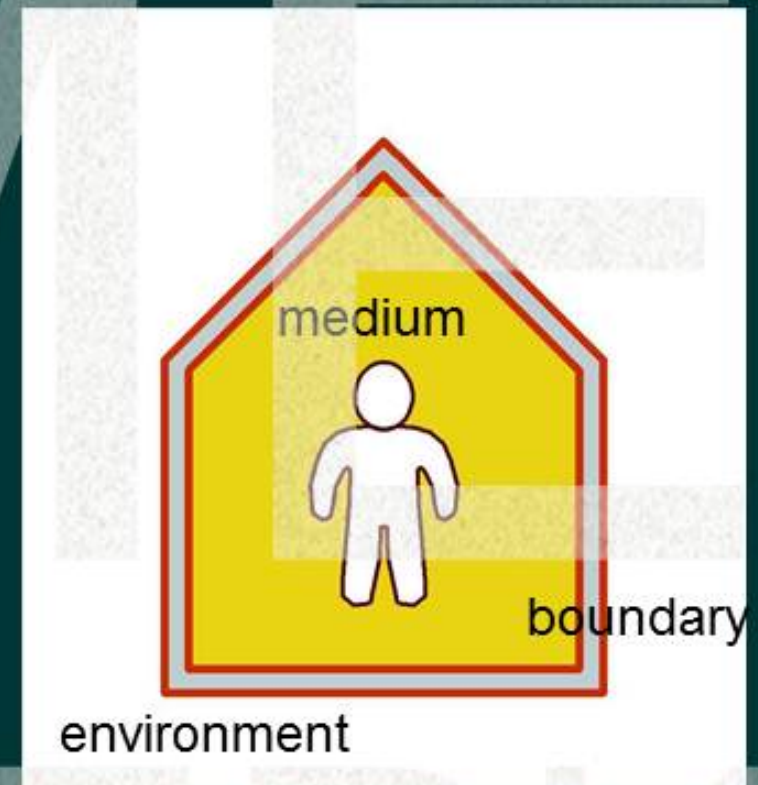
comfort and general building construction requirements

scientifically

the micro environment system is

medium = the internal space of  
the building

boundary = the building's  
constructions



the process of structural design

effect → result → requirement → **structure** ← performance

**the micro environment system**

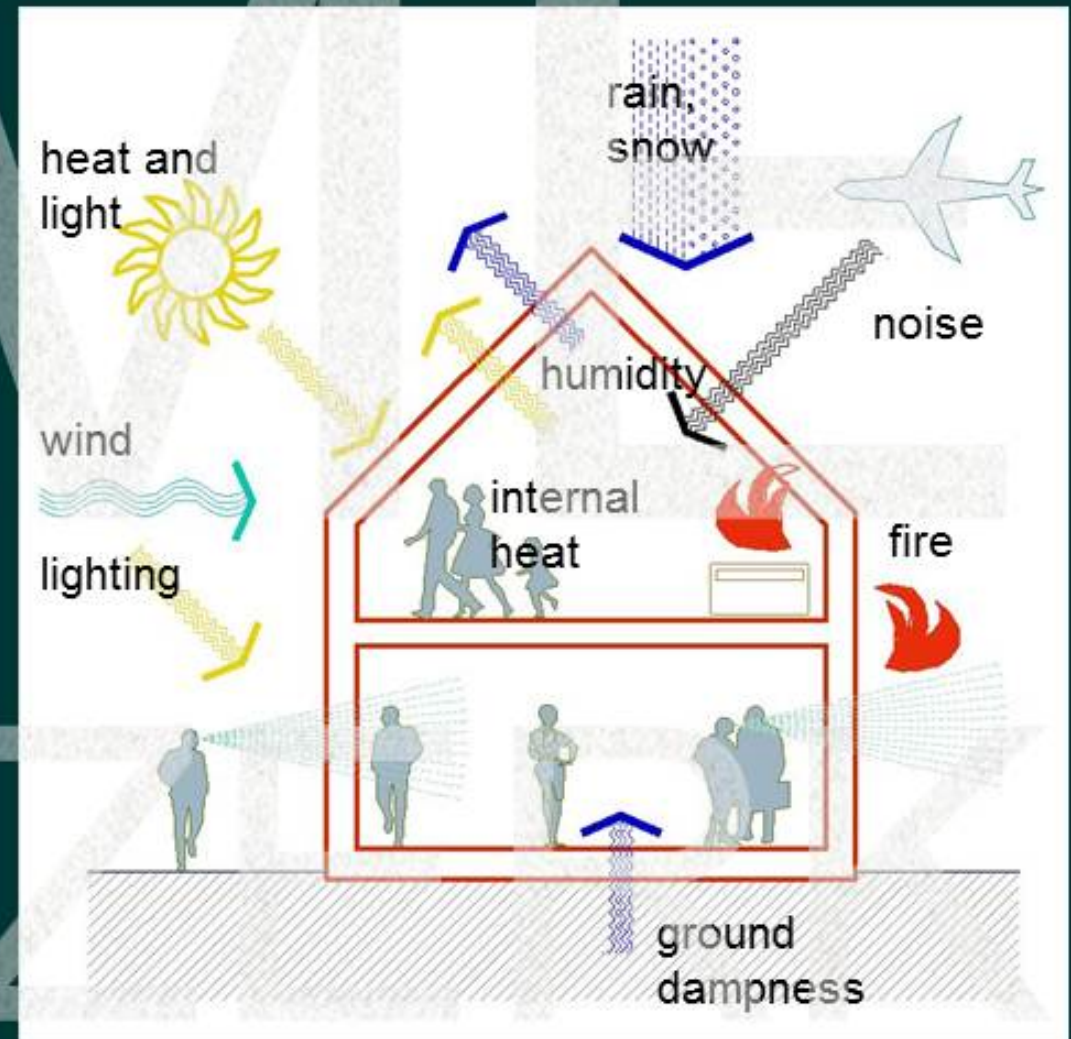
comfort and general building construction requirements





## effects on the building

- the appropriate construction of the structures is only possible when all effects are known and considered



effects on the building

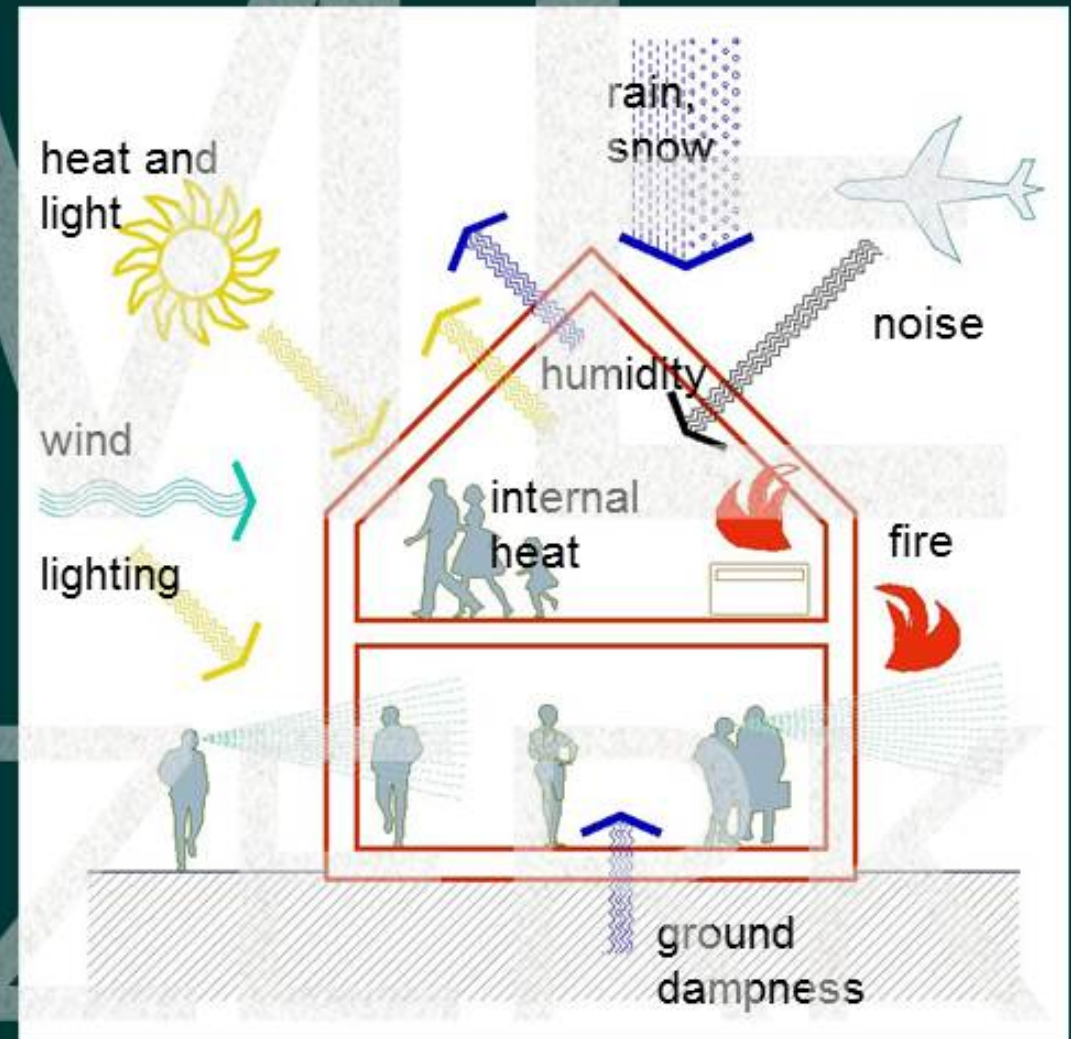
comfort and general building construction requirements



## requirements on buildings in general

General regulation on building constructions  
(OTÉK) – BUILDING CODE

- stability
- fire safety
- hygienics, health and environment protection
- security, safety during use
- noise and vibration protection
- energy consumption level:  
conservation, protection against overheating



requirements of buildings in general  
comfort and general building construction requirements



stability → statics, rigidity, load bearing structural elements



**stability**  
comfort and general building construction requirements



## fire safety

- **passive** protection:  
the adequate (life protecting: minimal escape and rescue requirements)  
construction of all building components
  - floor plan, escape routes,
  - fire zones
  - the fire resistance of building components
- **active** protection  
automatic fire signal systems  
built-in fire extinguishing systems



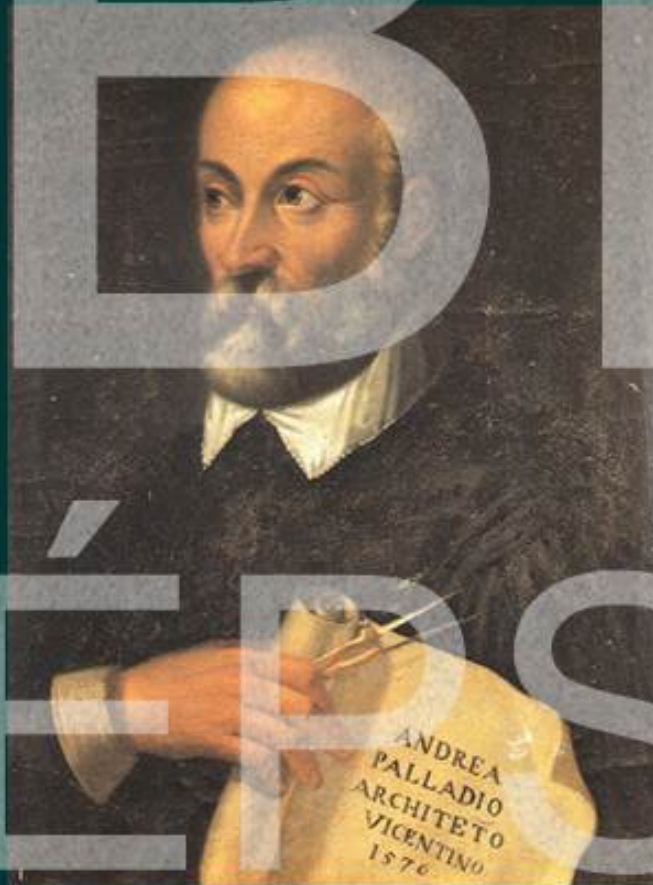
fire safety

comfort and general building construction requirements



hygienics, life and environment protection

Andrea Palladio (1508-1580): **Four books on Architecture**, second book



„One must not build in valleys enclosed by mountains: other than these buildings are hidden from view, they are invisible to the far away viewer, they also lack dignity and majesty, they are the absolute opposite of healthy disposition. Since the rainwater that collects here soak the soil which in turn evaporates vapours unjust to both mind and body, weakening the soul, the joints and nerves deplete and also cause excessive damage in grain stores... Winds if they enter these valleys, as if entering a narrow channel, become horrific hurricanes and if they do not enter, the air stays and becomes thick, dense and unhealthy.”



hygienics, life and environment protection  
comfort and general building construction requirements



## hygienics, life and environment protection

### must not endanger:

- poisonous gases, air pollution, other dangerous materials in the air the evaporation of such materials,
- soiled water, soil, solid and liquid waste; unwanted humidity
- dangerous radiation, electrostatical charging,
- chemical and corrosive effects,
- biological damages inhibition, overpopulation,
- unwanted noise and vibrations.

### must be secured:

- ventilation, heating, natural lighting,
- protection of the spaces against dampness and condensation
- general use and drinking water,
- the secure handling of sewage and exhaust gases, waste disposal
- an adequate level of grounding and lightning protection
- an appropriate accomodation of cleaning and upkeep needs
- the individual, independent and undisturbed use of functional units





## life protection, safety during use

### must prevent

- slippage, falling (eg. during moving through the building),
- tripping, side-stepping (eg. due to ineffective lighting),
- falling (eg. unexpected change in height, no bars, parapet walls)
- head injury (eg. inadequate internal head space),
- collision (eg. due to inadequate lighting or reflections),
- electric shock
- explosions
- getting stuck or jammed (eg. spaces or openings that are too small).







life protection, safety during use  
comfort and general building construction requirements



## protection against noise and vibrations



the **subjective** nature of sound: humans experience sound, but there is a dual nature of the experience

**noise:** sound experience that is found disturbing by humans





## sound

a wave that propagates very much like waves in water



properties:

- **frequency** (Hz): vibrations per second  
hearing range: 16 - 16.000 (20.000) Hz
- **sound pressure** (p): periodic changes in the atmospheric air pressure  
0,000002 Pa hearing threshold  
20 Pa pain threshold

logarithmic scale:	hearing	0 dB
	pain	140 dB
	quiet forest	20 dB
	library	40 dB
	medium traffic road	90 dB
	take off noise of a jet	120 dB



the nature of sound

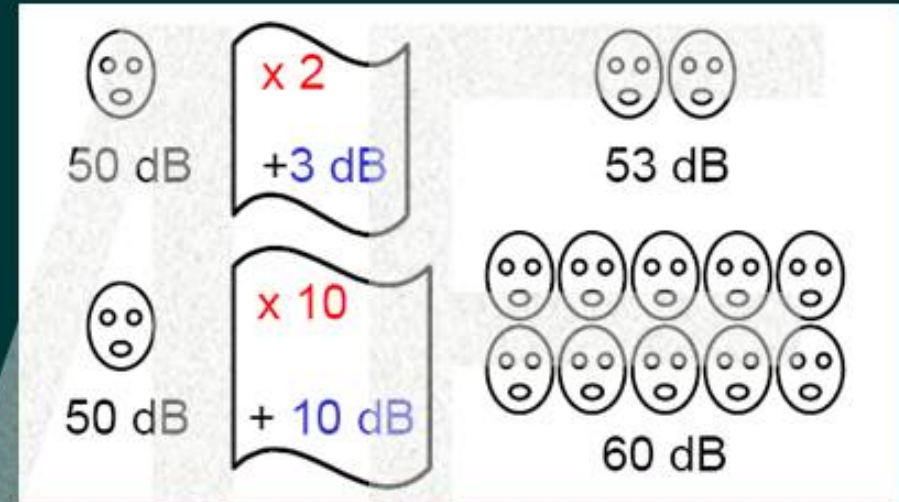
comfort and general building construction requirements – noise, vibrations



1 dB + 1 dB = not 2 dB!

if noise is reduced by:

- 1 dB – not noticed
- 3 dB - noticable
- 5 dB - considerable
- 10 dB – we feel that the noise is halved



dispersion **speed in:**

vacuum	0 m/s
air	340 m/s
water	1.430 m/s
ice	1.400 m/s
concrete	5.000 m/s
corkwood	500 m/s
rubber	40 m/s



**the nature of sound**

comfort and general building construction requirements – noise, vibrations



## noise level effects in buildings



**residential:** resting is disturbed

**workspace:** learning, communication and work are disturbed, performance is reduced and the problem solving capacity is hindered



**at a noisy work area** the chances of an accident is higher, people make more mistakes in a noisy environment



**in the vicinity of high power machinery** workers will experience temporary or long lasting hearing damage



**the result of noise loads**  
comfort and general building construction requirements – noise, vibrations





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noise **effects** → requirements

**acoustic tasks of the architect – main areas of noise reduction:**

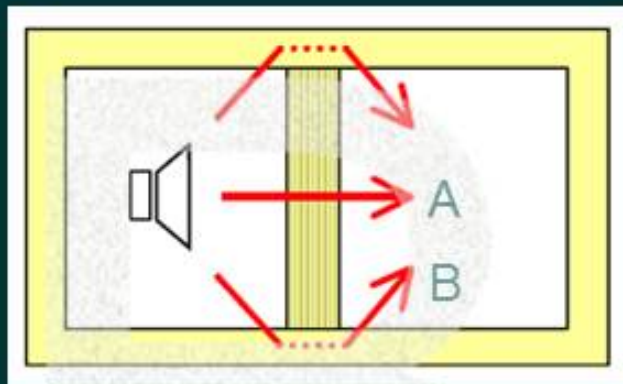
- **residential:** the assurance of conditions needed for undisturbed resting and recreation
- **public function:** spaces must be designed so that the particular function should be performed without noise disturbance (library, conference, movie theater, theater, concert hall etc.) and effective communication is allowed
- **industrial environment** hearing damages must be prevented
- in the **environment** protected natural area and designated recreational spaces (including buildings) must be noise protected



**acoustic tasks of the architect**

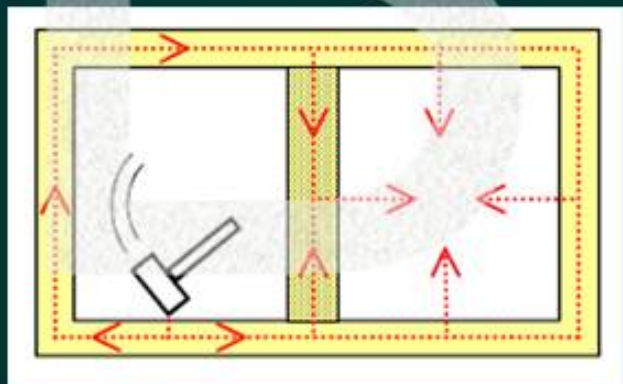
comfort and general building construction requirements – noise, vibrations



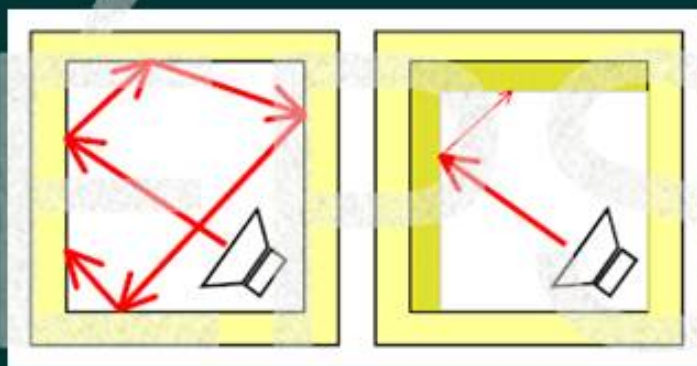


A: direct structural sound transmission  
B: indirect sound transmission through connecting structures

airborne noise insulation



structure borne noise (knocking) insulation



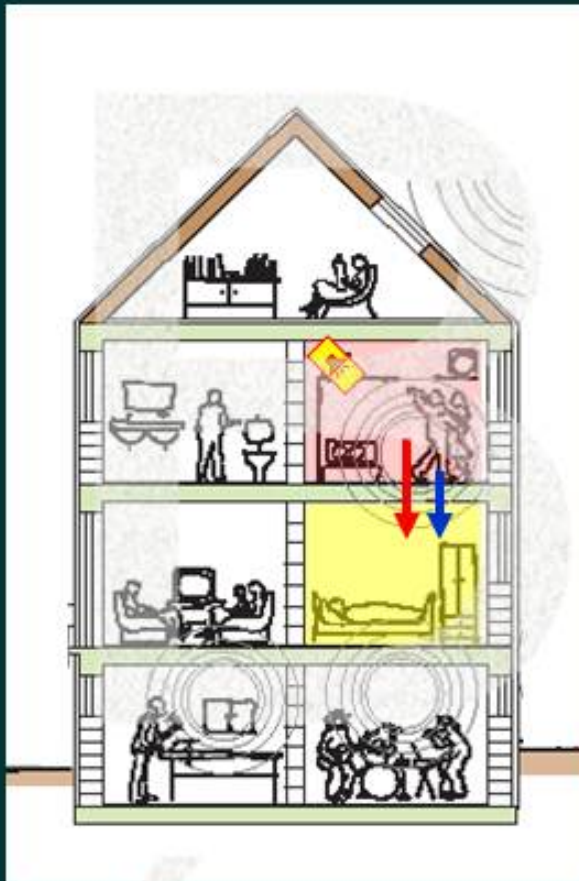
sound absorbtion (echo prevention)



effects and requiremetns – noise insulation

comfort and general building construction requirements – noise, vibrations





effect

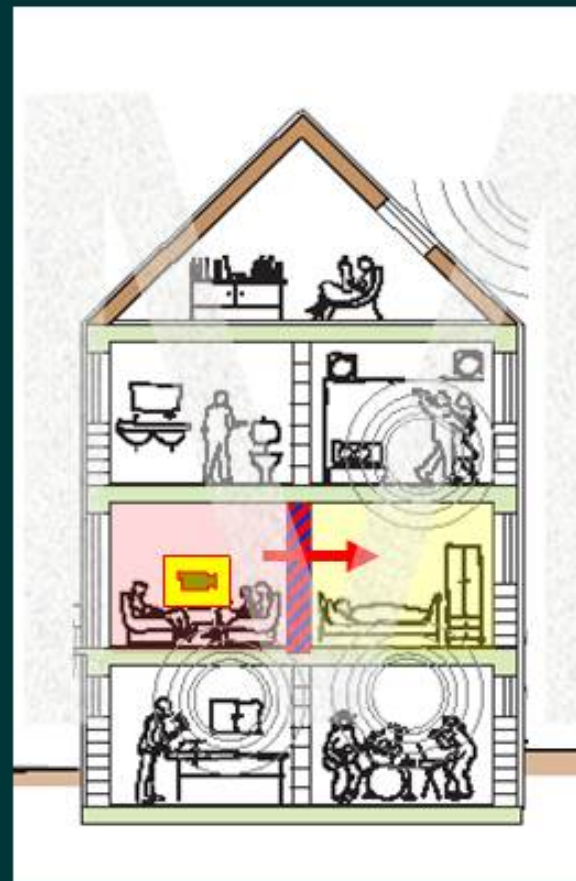
„party” in the flat

requirement

slab

airborne noise insulation

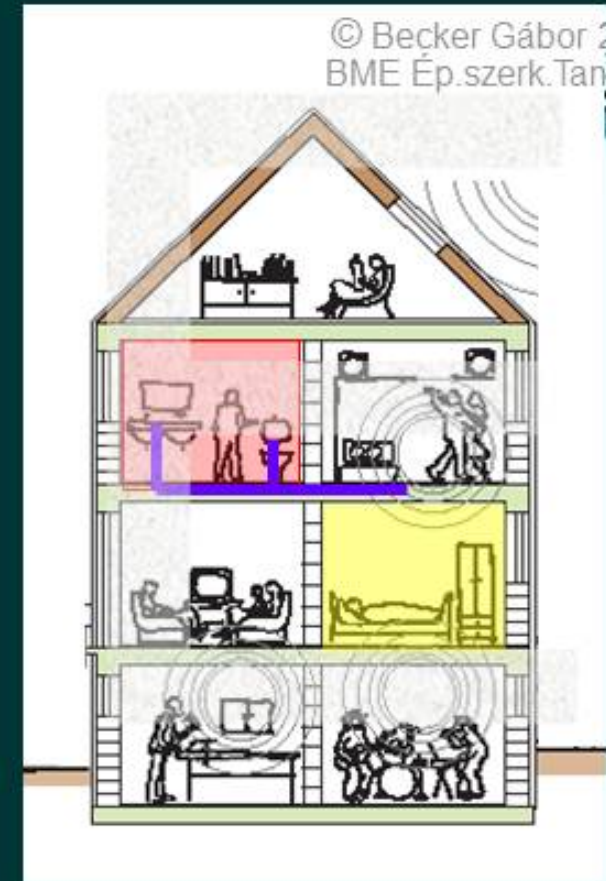
transmitted noise insulation



home theater in the flat

wall

airborne noise insulation



tubing, machinery

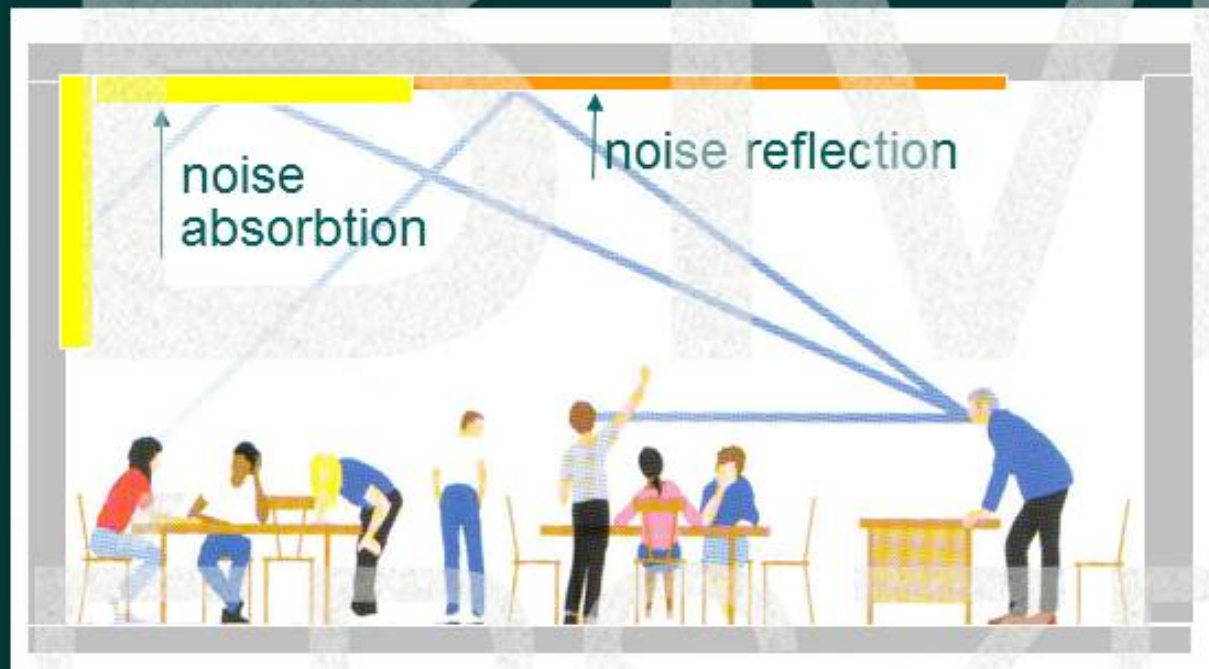
tubing must be installed with  
separation and insulation  
(selected machinery)

acoustic tasks in the design process

comfort and general building construction requirements – noise, vibrations







sound energy diffusion improvement in the classroom



**acoustic tasks in the design process**

comfort and general building construction requirements – noise, vibrations



**effect:** noise sources outside and inside the building  
eg. neighbours in the apartment house

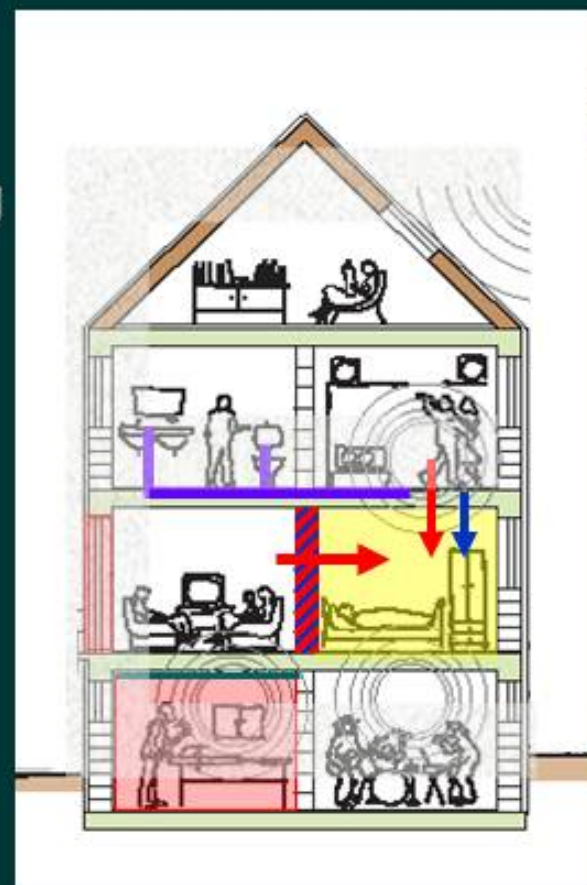
**requirement:** sound insulation and level

**tasks:**

- facade acoustic scaling: windows, walls, ventilation elements etc.
- internal structure acoustic scaling: walls, slabs, doors, stairs etc.
- internal room acoustic scaling: education, corridor, meeting room, lecture hall, theater, studio: walls, slabs, surface coverings
- building machinery installation noise reduction

**decisions and the responsibility of the architect:**

structural selections will define the value of the building



**acoustic tasks in the design process - summary**

comfort and general building construction requirements – noise, vibrations



- we create an artificial environment – the **dual nature** architecture  
architecture = (technical) scientific + artistic creation
- assuring an appropriate micro-environment: **comfort requirements**
- the **micro-environment** system: humans – internal space – separation
- **effects** on the building
- the **general requirements** of buildings
  - stability – fire safety - hygienics, protection of life and health, environment protection, protection against noise and vibrations, safety of use, energy efficiency and protection against overheating
- protection against **noise** and vibrations
  - **the nature** of sound
  - **the effects** of noise loads in buildings
  - the acoustic tasks of the **architect**

