

Focus on ceilings



Company
Products | Services | Values

OWAlifetime collection

OWA



Our identity and motivation

Focused on Quality

We have been developing, producing and marketing suspended ceilings made from mineral wool and their grids and accessories for over 70 years. We provide our customers with complete ceiling systems that are adapted to the demanding requirements of their specific projects. These requirements particularly include room acoustics, appealing design and fire protection as well as hygiene, moisture resistance and air purity. Acoustic ceilings, fire protection ceilings, hygienic ceilings, design ceilings, metal ceilings, ... Whatever you are planning – we have the solution.



Company foundation

OWA has been the market leading manufacturer of suspended ceiling systems in Germany since the start and in recent decades has become a major supplier across the world. The current Odenwald Faserplattenwerk GmbH was founded by Friedrich-Karl Rogge in the town of Amorbach in the year 1948. OWA had grown into a major provider in the wood fibre acoustic and soundproof panel market by 1960, when Friedrich-Karl Rogge discovered a new material in America which had fascinating characteristics: mineral wool. He immediately went on to develop his own mineral ceiling tiles featuring a host of innovations. Courage and a spirit of invention – traits that still characterise the family-run firm OWA today.

The brand OWAacoustic

Just one year later, things started moving quickly: In 1961 OWA became Europe's first supplier of mineral ceiling tiles. OWAacoustic, the ceiling system brand, was launched and soon became established worldwide.

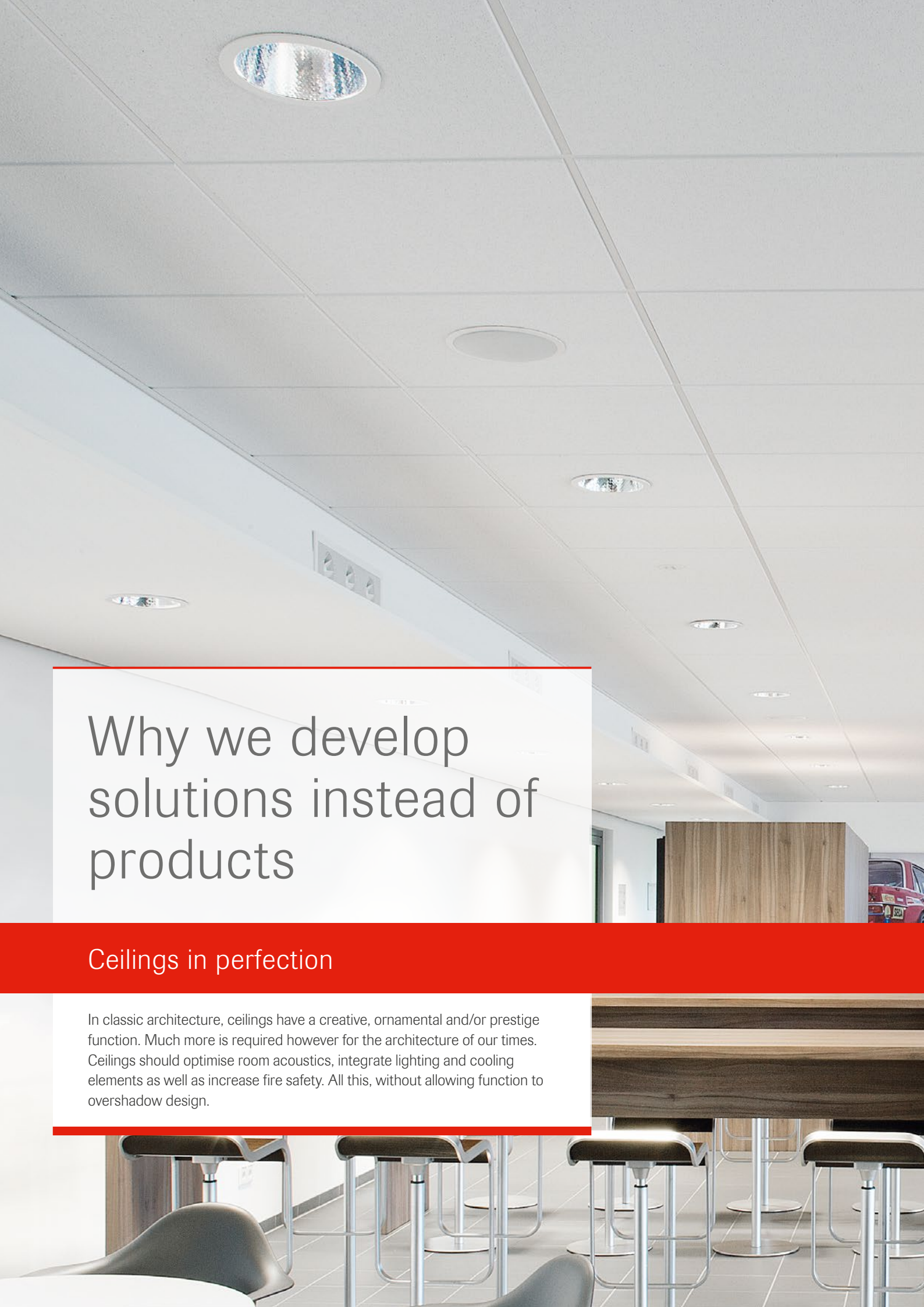
Proprietary production techniques

Milestone year 1977: The most modern facility for the production of mineral wool of its day began operation. OWA starts using volcanic basalt in production, yielding "black wool" that was to become the hallmark and key material in OWAacoustic products for over 20 years.

1997: By switching to "white wool", OWA aligned itself with the latest developments in ecological issues. White wool is made of a natural mixture of sand, recycled glass and limestone. Because of its excellent biosolubility, this new mineral wool complies with all major international regulations/standards for health and safety. Products are constantly checked and production closely monitored, in addition to inspections conducted by independent institutes.

Global ambitions

It all got started with 60 employees, but today OWA is one of the region's largest employers with a local workforce of over 500. Our ambitions extend far beyond our region however, and far beyond Germany's borders. Distribution subsidiaries and partners throughout the world accommodate rising demand for quality OWA ceilings. A production facility to manufacture suspension systems and metal ceilings was developed in China in 2005 and 2010.



Why we develop solutions instead of products

Ceilings in perfection

In classic architecture, ceilings have a creative, ornamental and/or prestige function. Much more is required however for the architecture of our times. Ceilings should optimise room acoustics, integrate lighting and cooling elements as well as increase fire safety. All this, without allowing function to overshadow design.



Avant-garde in dry construction

OWA saw the coming trend as early as the 60s, when we became a player shaping the market for dry construction and acoustic products. Even at the time, OWA customers loved the innovative lightweight and fire-resistant multi-purpose ceiling systems, which set a new standard for interior finishing.

Closed supply chain

OWA offers complete, technically sophisticated ceiling systems. All components fit together and are supplied by us – panels, construction elements and general suspension accessories. This makes it easier to select the right system, improving our customers' logistics efficiencies.

Installation made easy

Installation benefits: Single source for all components, better planning, high-availability, easy to install, certified safe from A to Z, and dependable service throughout the entire installation process.

Array of system selections


Advantage for planners and architects: Proven turnkey solutions fulfilling planning specifications. From our attractively priced standard ceiling to high-end acoustical ceilings and clean room ceiling systems meeting the most sophisticated requirements for hygiene and fire safety.

Better fire protection

Unique safety enhancement offered only by OWA: Complete kit systems consisting of OWA ceiling tiles and OWA suspension systems offer the most extensive set of fire protection certifications on the market, representing both a milestone and a benchmark in dry construction.

Mineral wool – prerequisite for a healthy room environment

The secret to our product quality: bio-soluble mineral wool. OWA produces this special mixture of sand, recycled glass and limestone itself. The products are tested on an ongoing basis and regularly inspected by an independent institute. Our mineral wool meets all national and international standards, and bears the RAL Seal of Quality.



The added value
provided by our
array of systems

Simple diversity

One reason for OWA's success is in our comprehensive product portfolio. Benefit for customers: It is extremely easy to identify the optimal solution from a technical, design and budget standpoint, for any conceivable application.



OWAlifetime collection – ceiling systems in a timeless style

OWAcoustic premium is the ceiling tile range for our high-end product line, geared towards the most sophisticated acoustics, fire resistance and moisture resistance requirements.

OWAcoustic smart impresses in the market for standard applications, combining light weight with outstanding fire resistance.

OWAconstruct is a 7,000-component suspension installation system providing the ultimate in safety and dependability – certified fire resistance with OWAcoustic mineral wool panel certification.

OWAconsult collection – high-end solutions in sophisticated design

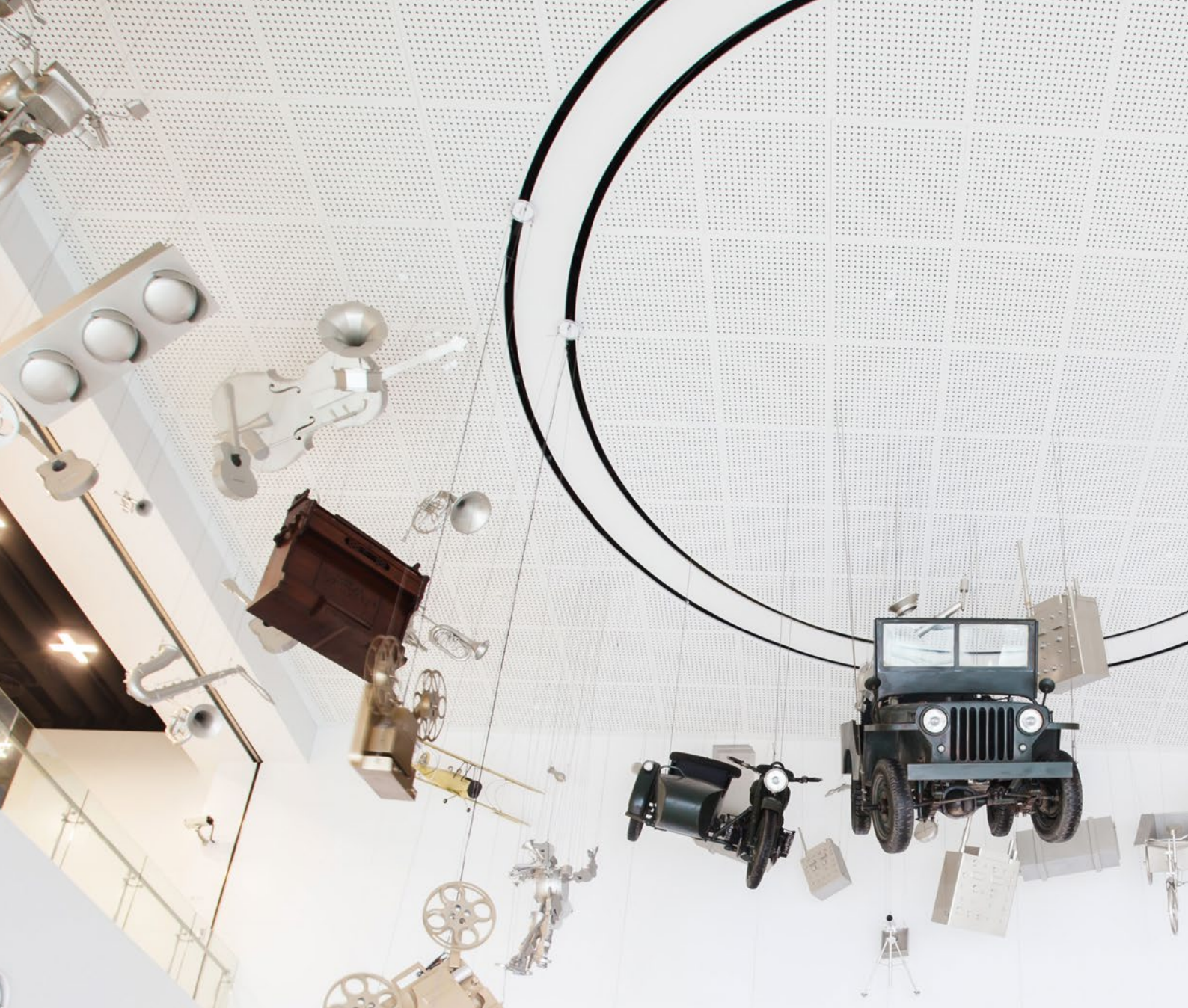
OWAconsult collection

More freedom, openness and creativity.

Seamless ceilings, mobile and wall absorbers, ceiling canopies, solutions for concrete core cooled ceilings, etc.

OWAtecta – metal ceilings

Ceiling tiles made of painted galvanised steel. The range with subtle variations in design offers a wide choice of aesthetic options. Tiles with various hole patterns are available to optimise the acoustics.



Business Relations

Guiding values

The southwest of Germany is known for technological innovation and is home to a number of highly successful enterprise with international operations. OWA is one of them. We have succeeded in extending our core commitments to innovation and customer focus to our international business. Vibrant relationships and business contacts are a natural result.

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Close to the customer

Our sales target is not about quantity at any cost, but about serving the customer, wherever they may be located in the world. Our activities are centred at our main plant in Amorbach, from where we supply our distribution partners, most of whom maintain their own warehouses. Systems and general suspension accessories are put together in Amorbach on an order basis and are rapidly, economically and reliably delivered. OWA has an extensive advisory network for anyone in need of help with ceiling systems, including developers, officials, architects, installers and building materials distributors.


Global objectives

Exports account for over half of our revenues. We currently operate in around 80 countries. We began building up a network of distribution partners and independent dealers way back in the 60s. In many countries we have subsidiaries with their own sales force to ensure optimal customer contact.

Raising the bar

We have completed thousands of projects around the world in the course of our over 70-year company history. These include fascinating architectural highlights, such as the Eldorado Business Tower in São Paulo, the Film Museum in Shanghai, the Central Plaza in Hong Kong or the Hilton in Schiphol, Amsterdam – projects that prove our stature and motivate us to continue to grow internationally.



A photograph of two men in business attire looking upwards and smiling. The man on the left has dark, wavy hair and a beard, while the man on the right has short, light-colored hair. They are both looking towards the top right of the frame. The background is a bright, slightly blurred indoor setting.

Competence centre for modern ceiling systems

OWAconsult

Whatever you desire: our team of architects, acousticians and designers creates solutions that bring together acoustics, design and functionality. OWAconsult was set up in 2010 as an independent consulting and planning unit, and regards itself as a competence centre for dry interior construction, specialising in room acoustics, fire protection and ceiling systems. We support decision-makers in a variety of industries, including architects, developers, construction companies and others. We invite you to join us in thinking further, to develop new scope and implement visions.

Project consulting – sharing visions

OWAconsult provides comprehensive advice regarding ceiling systems, acoustics, fire protection, hygiene, clean room and design. Our vision: generating real added value for architects, interior designers, planners and engineers - all this from the first contact, for example by using our free architects hotline.

Building consulting – making progress

OWAconsult practitioners provide active support. We prepare documents – from technical clarification through to the documentation of system and special solutions. We help you implement your project and support your installation team.

Room acoustics – experience expertise

Room acoustics are a key issue faced by modern interior designers. OWAconsult gives customers access to expert know-how acquired from 60 years of internal acoustics research and development – measurable added value on cost-effective terms.

Fire protection – gain an advantage

It is difficult to know all the requirements and to constantly keep track of their amended versions. OWAconsult makes it easier for you to gain access – as a central information and consulting centre for European and international fire protection standards. Take advantage of our knowledge pool, become proficient in fire protection – for the benefit of your project quality.

Structural analysis – support ideas

Suspended ceilings often contain fixtures such as luminaires, fire detectors or loudspeakers. Accordingly, ceiling systems need to be static and functional according to EN 13964 (standard for suspended ceilings). OWAconsult can evaluate these static conditions and support the planning of suspended ceiling solutions. Advantage of our service: Knowing beforehand what is statically feasible, avoiding surprises in the implementation phase.



For a better world

Environmental protection and sustainability

Whenever we think about environmental protection, we always take two positions. The position of the company involved in research and development, whose products are to make their mark on the global market, and the position of the manufacturer whose activities influence the environment. Both positions demand particular care and attention. This page lets you know what we are doing to meet our responsibilities.

Ceiling systems for sustainable building concepts

OWA develops, produces and sells ceiling systems. The demands that our customers – investors, planners, designers, architects, distributors and fabricators – place on our products are many and varied: design, stability, functionality, acoustics and fire safety. And one question is becoming increasingly important: “What do OWA ceiling systems contribute to the sustainable built environment?” In other words: “What do the products deliver in terms of air quality, comfort, ease of removal and recyclability?”

Quality reflecting new values

The less often a product has to be replaced, the better it is for the environment. Our ceiling systems are designed to remain impressive for the life of the building. From the visual, acoustic, functional and fire-safety perspectives.

The OWA green circle – so that nature can breathe again

Making the world just a little better and more attractive with each project. You want that. We want that, too. This is why we developed OWA green circle. We accept the return of your used mineral tiles of OWA, which originate from production after 01-10-1997 and close the circle of recyclable materials. An important step for us. And a big step for your sustainable building concept.

OWA backs German industrial standard DIN 18177

Together with the WETEC association, OWA was decisively involved in creating the new DIN 18177 “Wet-felt factory-produced mineral panels - Characteristics and test methods”. DIN 18177 exclusively regulates the manufacture and properties of mineral tiles and defines the requirements for factory-made mineral tiles using wet processing (wet felt). In addition to the basic requirements such as application ranges, norm-related information, terms, symbols and abbreviations, general and special requirements, test procedures, conformity assessment, mineral tile product names, labelling, etc., DIN 18177 defines the following classes:

- Emission of volatile organic compounds (TVOC)
- Emission of formaldehyde
- Air permeability

OWAcoustic premium and smart products are classified as TVOC 1 and significantly undercut even the threshold condition specified by the “Blue Angel” eco label. As with the emission of volatile organic compounds (TVOC), OWAcoustic premium and smart products significantly undercut formaldehyde emissions of $< 60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, as prescribed by the eco label “Blue Angel”. This classifies them as FH 1 according to DIN 18177. In fact OWA adds no formaldehyde or VOCs in the production of our mineral tile boards.

Due to the so-called filter effect, tiles with higher air permeability accumulate dust. This affects the decorative effect of the interior design tiles. Due to the low air permeability, OWAcoustic products reduce this effect and prevent the resulting soiling of the surface.





What growth means to us

Healthy growth

As a family owned company, OWA is free of pressures to generate short-term shareholder value. And yet we continue to grow internationally at an encouraging pace. This confirms for us that we are on track for realising our long-term business objectives. Our interest is in sustainable growth, rather than growth at any cost. True progress means serving mankind and the environment.

Management systems

There is always room to do everything just a little better. In keeping with this motto, we have implemented an integrated management system that brings together environmental, quality, workplace safety and energy elements. The systems are certified in accordance with DIN EN ISO 9001:2008 (Quality), DIN EN ISO 14001:2004 (Environmental protection), DIN EN ISO 50001:2012 (Energy) and BS OHSAS 18001:2007 (Occupational health and safety).

Environmental protection

In the year 2002 we have obtained certification of compliance with the international environmental management standard 14001. In so doing, we have committed ourselves to pursuing a continuous process of improvement with regard to defined environmental objectives and to monitoring the results of our efforts, as well as adherence to all relevant legislation. Installing as a leading edge technology a heat recovery system in our raw board dryer in 2006 reduces the energy consumption up to 30 %. The quality of our finished products also reflects sustainability-oriented development practices. OWA products can be used for a long time, and can be fully recycled at the end of their life cycle.

Energy

The production of our products requires energy. That is why we are constantly working on optimising our production processes. We are assisted by our energy management system, which records and evaluates all our energy data. Incidentally, energy data has not just been systematically recorded since the introduction of the management system; thanks to the foresight of the company's founders, we have energy records that reach back to the start of production in 1948.

People at OWA

If you want to make the world a little better, you have to start with yourself. We acknowledge our responsibility as a company, to our employees, and to our global and regional environments. OWA is a third-generation family-run business. Maximising profits at any price, guided by short-term shareholder-value interests – a concept alien to us. And yet we continue to grow internationally at a good pace. We see this as confirmation of long-term business objectives. A number of years ago we drew up a comprehensive set of regulations, representing a mutual commitment between management and employees to act in an ethical manner. Environmental protection and occupational safety are extremely important in these regulations.

The Future

We want to continue to invest our returns, to innovate for the future benefit of our customers, employees, our owners and for the wider community, for many generations to come.





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