

---

**THORBURN ASSOCIATES INC.**  
**Acoustic and Technology Consultants**  
**Designing Quality Environments**  
**eNewsletter**

---

**October 2008**

---

In this issue:

- Greetings and Upcoming Industry Events
  - Focus on Acoustics: Sound Isolation between Workstations
  - Focus on Technology: Using AV for Worship Center Security
  - Project News: Thorburn Associates GSA Number
  - Product Review: Netwell
- 

**Welcome to the October 2008 eNewsletter!**

As the seasons turn and we head toward Thanksgiving and the winter holidays, there's yet another cycle in progress: Steve Thorburn will step up as the new president of the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA) during the IAAPA Attractions Expo this November in sunny Orlando. TEA is a prestigious international alliance that has accomplished a great deal in terms of defining and growing the themed entertainment industry (aka "Experience Industry") – which includes amusement parks, museums and heritage centers, retail centers, resorts, houses of worship and more. Through its Thea Awards, TEA has achieved recognition for the individuals and companies who create the industry's best themed projects and places. "The TEA presidency demands vision, leadership and commitment, and Steve Thorburn has all three," declares sitting president Nick Farmer, who will pass the gavel to Steve.

Thorburn Associates is expanding its North Carolina offices! Our new facility will double as a showcase/laboratory for the best in open-office plan design, acoustics, and communications technology.

Information on industry trends, technologies and products is one of the benefits you rely on TA to provide, and to that end our fall events calendar is plenty busy. If you're attending any of the following gatherings, please look us up and say hello.

**California Society for Healthcare Engineering (CSHE)**, Concord CA, Oct 16. Visit our exhibit booth.

**Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA)** 2008 Conference & Expo, Las Vegas, Nov 3-5. Visit our exhibit booth #719.



**AIA Architecture Exchange East**, Richmond VA, Nov. 12-14. Visit our exhibit booth #611.

**AIA California Council 2008 Practice Conference**, San Diego, Nov. 14-16. Visit our exhibit booth.

**IAAPA Attractions Expo**, Orlando, Nov. 17-21. Look for Steve and Lisa Thorburn in the TEA booth, #1268.

As always, it is our goal to make sure that Thorburn Associates is your single point of contact for all your Acoustic and Technology Design services. If you have an idea, question or suggestions, please drop us a note at [enews@ta-inc.com](mailto:enews@ta-inc.com).

---

### **Focus on Acoustics Sound Isolation between Workstations**

As with all matters acoustical, things seem to come in waves. The latest revolution of problems to solve: private offices along window walls in office buildings. People have been complaining they hear everything that is said on the other side of the wall. While the problem might indeed be the wall itself, it is also likely to be the intersection of window and wall. The trick here is to get two ridged items to stay sealed airtight as they flex and move with the building during the heating and cooling cycles most notably found at the window.

From the viewpoint of an office designer, the best thing to do is to align the office walls with the window mullions. Ideally, the wall butts right up against the mullion so that we can then caulk it airtight. An airtight seal is your first priority in blocking the flow of noise. If necessary, we use a faux mullion between the wall and the window, and seal it to the back side of the window and to the wall. If you can run your business card between the closure and the window or the wall, your seal is not airtight and you might have a sound problem.

If the mullion-wall intersection is sealed airtight, and there still is a sound problem, then we likely need to add mass to the mullion system. After all, typically we are working with components of light-gauge aluminum that do not have the mass of the adjoining wall. This is where acoustical mass and damping products can be used. Netwell, a distributor, is one good source for obtaining such materials because they accept small-quantity orders.

Each situation is a little different, depending on the combination of wall, window and mullion. Remember the first goal is an airtight seal, and after that if necessary explore methods for beefing up the wall system to further block the noise.

---

### **Focus on Technology Using AV for Worship Center Security**

Our worship centers are not exempt from the crimes of opportunity and other losses that are found in the rest of our world. The nature of the worship experience makes

us vulnerable. So with a special eye we need to review our surroundings and determine how to better protect the institution, its property and the congregation it serves.

While all threats cannot be prevented by visual security systems, the documentation provided enables many to be deterred or resolved. The illegitimate slip-and-fall suit will not succeed if there is a visual record of the hoax. The breaking and entering to steal the praise team's new sound system will be caught on video. If the security camera system is visible, then these activities might not even take place.

Security cameras have come down in price and are less intrusive than before. One of our favorite types of camera is the small dome camera. These come in many different styles, including smoked domes, which obscure where the camera is pointed. Security cameras can be mounted in a fixed position, or remotely controlled as needed, and the control system can be as simple as an ethernet computer cable. The smaller models are easy to conceal. For outdoor surveillance – in a parking lot, for instance - cameras can be protected by outdoor housing. The new mega-pixel cameras on the market provide some four times the detail in an image than does standard video.

Digital Video Recorders (DVRs) enable you to digitally record events "TIVO" style, without videotape. The images are stored on a computer hard drive – the larger the drive, the more storage space and the longer time before the images will be recorded over. Internally they typically use four channel encoding cards, so design your camera system in 4, 8, 12 or 16 channels to get the best cost payback from your recorder.

A major advantage of DVR is the ability to view the recorded image remotely on the Internet. This empowers you or your authorized personnel to connect and view from home, for instance, or from the local police station. The ability to respond quickly – to pull the view of the camera when the burglar alarm first goes off, for example – helps you determine whether the alarm is genuine or a false trigger.

The important thing is to have a record. It deters some threats and defuses others, documents those events that do happen and differentiates a real alarm from a false one. The record defends you, and protects your work and your position in the community. Today's AV technology enables houses of worship to create that record affordably and with relative simplicity.

---

### **Project News: TA now has a GSA number**

Thorburn Associates has been awarded a GSA Federal Supply Schedule contract number from the US General Services Administration. TA is now in a position to directly bid on Government projects as a designer of audiovisual systems, security systems and data-telecom infrastructure.

The GSA Federal Supply Schedules program is the preferred method of procurement for the Federal government. Government agencies buy from GSA Schedules because they know they are getting an approved product or service, and that the company has undergone an extensive vetting from GSA.

TA's eligibility for direct Government contracts is further enhanced by the company's certifications as a small business, a woman-owned business, and a historically underutilized business. TA's Meg Barham, based in the NC office, is the primary GSA contact. She can be reached at [GSA@TA-Inc.com](mailto:GSA@TA-Inc.com).

---

### **Product Review: Netwell Noise Control**

Minneapolis-based Netwell has been serving the acoustics industry for more than 20 years with a wide range of noise control products. Netwell supplies more than 60 products to the acoustics market and prides itself on cost-effectiveness and small orders.

Sound absorption products include textured foam panels, bass traps, acoustical ceiling tiles and wall coverings. Sound barrier products include PVC sheets, material for wrapping ductwork, quilted curtains, ceiling tile caps and phone booth enclosures.

A plus is the company's user-friendly [website](#), with information in layperson's language and options to search for products by name or by application, with clear descriptions, pictures and tips on how to select and install each product.

---

### **THANK YOU FOR READING OUR eNEWSLETTER**

To subscribe/unsubscribe: <http://www.ta-inc.com/eNewsletter.htm>.

If you have any problems: [eNews@TA-Inc.com](mailto:eNews@TA-Inc.com).

We publish our eNewsletter once every two months. We are always looking for new topics and ideas. Please drop us a note at [eNews@TA-Inc.com](mailto:eNews@TA-Inc.com) with any comments or suggestions.

Copyright 2008. Feel free to quote any part of this newsletter; just give us credit and let us know how and where the quote will be used.

## **THORBURN ASSOCIATES INC. Acoustic and Technology Consultants Designing Quality Environments**

Corporate Office:	Castro Valley, California	510-886-7826
Regional Office:	Burbank, California	818-569-0234
Regional Office:	Morrisville, North Carolina	919-463-9995
<a href="mailto:TA@TA-Inc.com">TA@TA-Inc.com</a>	General Information Email Address	
<a href="http://www.TA-Inc.com">www.TA-Inc.com</a>	Web Site	
<a href="mailto:eNews@TA-Inc.com">eNews@TA-Inc.com</a>	Newsletter Issue	

