

Sonex Valueline Panels Reduce Echo in the Willow Valley Retirement Community Pool

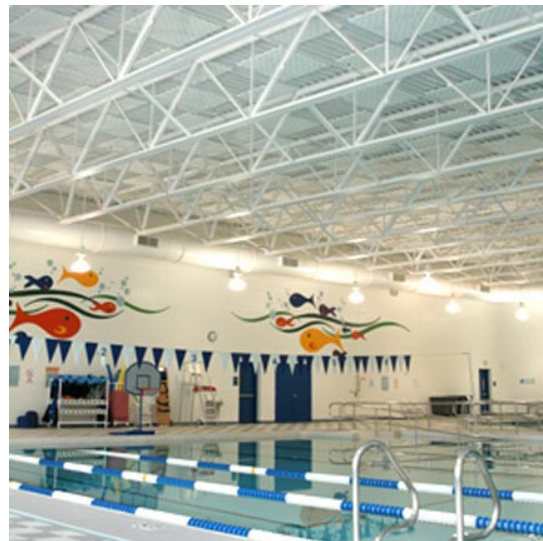
Aquatic exercise is the fastest growing fitness program at Willow Valley Retirement Community, near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. That's why they included two pools in their new Cultural Center. One is a large L-shaped equipped with six swimming lanes. The other is a warm therapy pool where residents do exercises designed to help them build strength or heal from an injury.

From the moment the 12,000 square-foot pool area opened, it was bustling with people swimming laps, exercising, and talking while instructors and lifeguards try to shout about the din. It quickly became apparent to Willow Valley staff that something needed to be done to control the noise.

"We have so many activities going on at the same time, acoustical control and safety are very important to us," explains John G. Swanson, president of Willow Valley Retirement Management, Inc.

Tests were done to determine the extent of the pool area's reverberation problem. "The reverberation time of the Willow Valley pool area averaged 5.7 to 6.5 seconds. Our goal was to achieve an average of 1.5 to 2 seconds after installing the acoustic panels," says Kris Kollevoll, owner and sales engineer of BRD Noise and Vibration Control, Inc. an acoustical consulting firm.

After considering the options, Kollevoll chose SONEXvalueline panels for the job because they not only provide excellent acoustical control, they will hold up in the humid pool environment. The panels were easy to flush mount directly to the corrugated metal ceiling deck using adhesive, stainless screws and washers."



Staff and residents say they are pleased with the new panels, which offered immediate, noticeable relief. Made from illbruck's unique Class 1 fire-rated willtec® foam, SONEX Panels are resistant to microbial growth and fungus and do not deteriorate in chlorinated environments.