

# 5 AV RULES EVERY ARCHITECT MUST KNOW

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Before you finalise your next boardroom design,  
read this. Your client will thank you.

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## Treat Acoustics Like a Material Finish

*The room shapes the sound — long before a single speaker is installed*

Most AV problems aren't equipment problems — they're room problems that get blamed on equipment. Hard floors, glass walls, and bare ceilings create a reverberant field that destroys speech intelligibility and makes every video call sound like a car park. The fix isn't a better microphone; it's acoustic design.

**DO**

Allocate at least 20% of wall area for acoustic treatment — fabric-wrapped panels, perforated timber, or acoustic plaster all qualify and can be designed to read as premium finishes.

**DON'T**

Leave acoustic treatment as an afterthought. Retrofitting panels into a finished interior is expensive, visually disruptive, and rarely achieves the right NRC target.

**AVENUE SOUND TIP**

Avenue Sound specifies acoustic panels that double as curated artwork. Your client gets the boardroom they imagined — treatment and aesthetics in perfect alignment.

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## Size Displays to the Room, Not the Budget

*Screen size is a spatial calculation — not a prestige decision*

A common mistake: specifying a display that looks impressive in a showroom but is unreadable from the far end of a 10-metre boardroom table. The inverse is equally true — oversizing for a compact room creates distortion and viewer fatigue. Display sizing is geometry, not aspiration.

Viewing Distance	Minimum Screen Diagonal	Recommended Format
2 – 3 metres	55 – 65 inch	Single display
3 – 5 metres	75 – 86 inch	Single or dual display
5 – 8 metres	98 inch / LED wall	Dual display or direct-view LED
8 metres +	Direct-view LED	LED wall with content zoning

**AVENUE SOUND TIP**

We calculate the optimal display size at schematic design — and provide joinery-ready recess dimensions so your furniture drawings are accurate from the start.

# 03 Design Lighting and Displays Together

*Light is the single biggest threat to display performance in a premium interior*

A luxury boardroom with floor-to-ceiling glazing and a display positioned opposite the window is a beautiful room that doesn't work. Ambient light levels, pendant luminaire placement, and solar shading all directly determine whether your display is readable — or a glowing rectangle no one can see.

<b>RULE</b>	Position displays perpendicular — never opposite — to windows and skylights
<b>RULE</b>	Specify automated blackout or solar blinds on all glazed surfaces near display walls
<b>RULE</b>	Avoid warm pendant luminaires directly above or behind display screens
<b>RULE</b>	Coordinate lighting scene presets with AV system at design stage — not commissioning
<b>AVENUE SOUND</b>	We map lux levels and glare angles during design review — before a single fitting is ordered

# 04 Plan Microphone Zones Before Furniture Is Finalised

*Coverage gaps are invisible at design stage — and deafening in use*

A beamforming ceiling microphone array is one of the most intelligent devices in a modern boardroom. It tracks speakers automatically, rejects noise, and cancels echo in real time. But it can only cover what it can 'see' from its mounting position. Finalise microphone zones before furniture layout locks in.

<p><b>DO</b></p> <p>Share your furniture layout drawing with your AV consultant before documentation. Microphone positions should be confirmed on the reflected ceiling plan — with back-boxes specified at structural stage.</p>	<p><b>DON'T</b></p> <p>Place ceiling microphones based on visual symmetry or wherever the electrician has a spare circuit. Coverage is acoustic geometry — not aesthetic preference.</p>
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<b>Avoid near: HVAC vents &amp; diffusers</b>	Air movement noise saturates microphone input — maintain 600mm minimum clearance
<b>Avoid near: Pendant light fittings</b>	Electrical interference and physical obstruction affect beam patterns
<b>Avoid near: Directly above the screen</b>	Echo from speaker bleed overwhelms the signal — keep mics at table-centre zones

# 05

## One Rack Room Changes Everything

*Where you put the AV brain determines how well the whole system performs*

Equipment crammed into joinery voids without ventilation fails early, runs hot, and becomes impossible to service. A dedicated AV rack room — even a compact 0.6m<sup>2</sup> comms cupboard — transforms system reliability, serviceability, and upgrade potential. It's one of the highest-value planning decisions you can make.

Rack Room Specification	Why It Matters
Minimum 0.6m <sup>2</sup> floor area per boardroom served	Allows full rack unit with front + rear access
Dedicated 240V double power circuit + UPS	Prevents AV dropouts during building power events
Passive or active ventilation (target < 25°C)	Every 10°C above ambient halves component lifespan
Cat6A + HDMI + fibre conduit to all AV zones	Future-proofs for AV-over-IP and 8K signal paths
Access door accessible without entering main room	Critical for live-event troubleshooting

**AVENUE SOUND TIP** We provide rack room layout drawings sized to your floor plan — no guesswork, no surprises on site. Request yours at concept stage and your contractor will thank you.

### Quick Reference: The 5 Rules at a Glance

01	<b>Acoustics First</b>	Treat absorption like a finish spec — allocate wall area early
02	<b>Size by Distance</b>	Display diagonal = geometry, not budget — calculate from seating
03	<b>Light + Display Together</b>	Coordinate glazing, blinds, luminaires, and display position in one pass
04	<b>Mic Zones Before Furniture Locks</b>	Map coverage on RCP — confirm back-boxes at structural stage
05	<b>Plan a Rack Room</b>	0.6m <sup>2</sup> , ventilated, accessible — the single best ROI in AV infrastructure