

Rising up



The musical ambience on the 39th-level bar Mr Stork is enhanced with Tannoy CVS 6 and DVS 4 speakers



The Garden Studio function room provides a more intimate party experience

Singapore systems integrator, EAS, has brought the sights and sounds of the island nation into Hyatt's first Andaz in South East Asia. **Richard Lawn** reports

WHEN THE PAIR OF CONCAVE TOWERS KNOWN AS DUO made their joint entrance onto the Singaporean skyline in 2017, the 186m iconic architectural masterpiece defined a new standard in Singapore when it came to integrated development. Incorporating the first Andaz hotel in South East Asia, the new kid on the Bugis block looked to distinguish itself from the pack by drafting in famed interior designer, Andre Fu, to conceptualise an individual character. Mr Fu ingested the hotel's dynamic location of the surrounding streets to create a labyrinth of passageways featuring locally inspired techniques, decorative details, furniture, art and fabric in the hotel's design. Although yesteryear's sights and sounds that emitted from Bugis are almost impossible to capture and replicate, Electro-Acoustics Systems Pte Ltd (EAS) managed to architecturally blend A/V and lighting systems throughout this unique property.

Since its inception in 1983, EAS has been a first-choice SI for many expanding Singaporean hotel chains wishing

to incorporate A/V and lighting technologies for added functionality. Working under the supervision of the main contractor, Obayashi Singapore, and A/V consultant, Acviron Acoustics, EAS provided aesthetically sympathetic A/V systems both within and beyond the main alleys. 'We made a request for A/V equipment that is renowned in the market for quality, reliability and ease of use,' says F&B operations director, Victor Marcato. 'When opening a hotel of this magnitude, there are so many aspects that need to be considered, from silverware to bed linen, staff uniforms to floor tiles. Ultimately, you have to trust the expertise of the contractors you bring in.'

Before guests can familiarise themselves with one of the 342 rooms offering floor-to-ceiling windows for dramatic vistas of the city, they need to take two elevators via Alley on 3. Here, Andre Fu's signature becomes apparent as the intimate alleyways of the local shop houses have been woven into the third-level 'alleyway'. Circumnavigating this almost circular floor, Alley on 3 allows guests to dip in and out of various



The divisible Glasshouse comes with challenging acoustics courtesy of the floor-to-ceiling windows

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function spaces. Specifically designed for event organisers, the 1,375m² alleyway features four residential-style event spaces, including a distinct 'glass-box' venue called The Glasshouse, an adjoining outdoor terrace named Garden Studio and two studios available for smaller gatherings.

With the exception of The Glasshouse, Alley on 3 is a mere sampler for Alley on 25. While meetings and events are hosted at Alley on 3, guests and visitors are spoiled for choice at Alley on 25 by a wide variety of food and beverage options. The 21st-century concept brings Singaporean street dining together with unique skyline views by offering seven alleyway shop houses on one floor, including barbecued snacks in Smoke & Pepper, piping hot dishes coming out of the Green Oven, Japanese feasts in Plancha' Lah!, noodles in Auntie's Wok & Steam or desserts in Icehaus.

Music is an important aspect of the hotel's public areas, especially on Alley on 25, with specific BGM playlists catering for different zones. As some of the restaurant outlets open 18 hours a day from breakfast until midnight, every day of



Andaz Singapore relies on Tannoy CVS 6 and CVS 8 ceiling speakers for its zoned BGM

accessed from Apple iPad touchscreens. The six restaurants are interlinked along Alley on 25 and each restaurant manager can select the general BGM or one of two source players. Not only is the music audible, but spillage between the various restaurants and zones has been avoided.

Designed to cater for special events, product launches and weddings, both The Glasshouse and Garden Studio are fitted out with higher SPL specifications. Inspired by a glass-box design featuring floor-to-ceiling windows on three sides, The Glasshouse can accommodate up to 280 seated guests. The combination of excessive glazing and sound reinforcement may not be great acoustically, but the EAS engineers have sensitively addressed DSP parameters including EQ, filtering, dynamics and delay using the Biamp Server-IO software. Stored settings within the Server-IO can be configured and managed via Crestron CP3 control Ethernet connection on an iPad touchscreen.

Focusing on the dining tables rather than the exterior glass, 36 Tannoy CVS 8 8-inch coaxial speakers and 16 SoundTube CM1001d-T subwoofers constitute the ceiling system. Powered by a combination of two Lab.gruppen C 28:4 4-channel amplifiers, the sourced BGM and live music are mixed on a Yamaha TF3 48-channel console that receives its microphone inputs from a Yamaha Tio1608-D remote stagebox. The musicians are monitored from Renkus-Heinz CFX121M-8 speakers that can be patched in on-stage, while a choice of Sennheiser ew 135 handheld and ew 112 clip-on wireless microphones are available for all events.

Two Remaco TEN 5.5m and four Remaco TEN 5m motorised screens can be called upon for high-impact visuals, receiving outputs from individual Christie D12WU-H projectors. Inputs including three Datavideo PTC-150 cameras linked to a

Datavideo RMC-180 controller, a Blu-ray player and five Kramer WP-20 HDMI and audio wall points are routed to a Datavideo SE-2200 6-channel matrix switcher for output. A Datavideo HDR-70 hard disk recorder allows guests to leave with a memento of the event. Twelve Grandbright skyhooks provide retractable lighting options, while 10 Martin Rush MH 1 Profile moving heads can be controlled from a software-loaded PC.

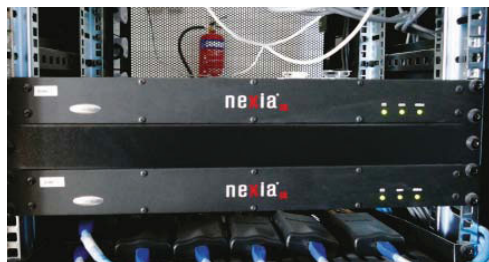
Combining a picturesque indoor pavilion with an adjoining outdoor garden, the more intimate Garden Studio can entertain up to 100 guests. Here, a similar, but scaled-down, audio setup consisting of 26 Tannoy CVS 8 8-inch coaxial models and 10 SoundTube CM1001d-T subwoofers powered by three Lab.gruppen E Series amplifiers receive their mix from a 16-channel Yamaha TF1 console. A single Remaco TEN 3m screen and Panasonic PT-DZ870 projector are adequate for the needs of this venue, with inputs from four Kramer WP-20 wall plates and a Blu-ray player. Six Martin Rush MH 1 Profile moving heads provide the dazzle for incoming guests, and Sennheiser ew 135 handheld and ew 112 clip-on wireless microphones are available for speeches.

As Andaz ascends, similar BGM systems as Alley on 25 have been woven into the building's architecture, covering the 26th-floor changing rooms, 665°F restaurant and 38th-floor fitness centre. At the apex on the 39th floor, the Mr Stork rooftop bar is adorned with teepee-hut seating and a 360° view of the city. Powered by a Lab.gruppen E 4:2 amplifier, Tannoy CVS 6 6-inch coaxial models and DVS 4 wall-mounted speakers provide ambience in the bar under its outdoor canopy. But initially, the extensive rooftop bar did not require reinforced SPLs.

'From my personal perspective, EAS came into their own when we asked for their assistance on the rooftop bar area,' explains Mr Marcato. 'This area wasn't intended to play music originally but, as the bar developed and we started to draw large happy-hour crowds at sunset, the need to add BGM was paramount. The EVAC contractor had installed a Bose FreeSpeak II landscape speaker system for public announcements only. When we approached EAS to see if they could upgrade its use for BGM, we would have fully understood if they had declined the offer or sent us an invoice. However, they undertook the request and applied the right DSP and cabling to ensure we could play music into this zone for no extra fee.'

For EAS, Andaz Singapore could be seen as just another hotel credit in its extensive portfolio. The A/V and lighting systems the company designed and installed enhance the hotel's functionality and promote ease of use, ensuring future service calls will be kept to a minimum, but the acoustical and design challenges it faced were no different from other similar hotel projects the company has embarked upon in recent years. But something along the alleyways must have set this project apart, as EAS booked the hotel for its own prestigious 35th anniversary party. Perhaps it never wanted to leave.

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Biamp Nexia CS DSP mixers route the BGM sources to the Tannoy speaker system

the year, the audio system is in almost continuous use. 'It's important that we create our own design and identity, so music plays a role,' continues Mr Marcato.

Connected to a Biamp Server-IO, the main BGM source for Andaz Singapore is a MediaLON MAS Pro 32-D digital music server, although local iOS devices can also be selected for individual zones throughout Andaz. The stereo audio signals from these are transported into Intelix AVO-A2-F stereo devices before being routed to Biamp Nexia CS 8-in/8-out and 12-in/12-out DSP matrix mixers. Interlinked Biamp Nexia processors transport the shared audio data out to the network of 79 Tannoy CVS 6 ceiling loudspeakers. The coaxial speaker system is powered by racked Lab.gruppen 4-channel C Series and 2-channel E Series amplifiers.

'Our facility managers demand user-friendly technology, allowing them to easily select a source and adjust the level when required,' explains Mr Marcato. Located behind the scenes, EAS integrated rack-mounted Biamp Volume/Select 8 panels for each zone to provide a menu of sources, while two accessible wall-mounted Bosch LBC 1410 attenuators allow staff to adjust the volume only. Crestron CP3 control of the audio, video and lighting systems throughout Andaz can be

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