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THE LATEST EDITION

Ian Schrager and Marriott meet in Singapore

MUSO: REDEFINING MUMBAI MUSEUMS

TRIBE BRINGS THE BEACH TO BANGKOK

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A Special Edition

d&b distributed FOH systems provide the punch in the Wonder Room

Richard Lawn visits Ian Schrager's new venture, The Singapore Edition, which is currently the talk of the town

UPON ENTERING THE LOBBY OF THE SINGAPORE Edition, hotel guests will instantly know they have arrived. The property's signature Black Tea fragrance, minimalist white décor and opulent furnishings combine to deliver a powerful statement, enhanced by the bespoke AV solutions throughout the hotel, provided by Electro-Acoustics Systems (EAS).

The Singapore Edition was conceived by Studio 54 cofounder Ian Schrager in partnership with Marriott International. Collaborating with interior design firm Cap Atelier, Schrager involved himself in every aspect of the hotel's design. By marrying refined glamour with the energy of the equatorial tropics, guests are exposed to a level of comfort and service that sets it apart from other hotels in this highly competitive island state.

The systems integrated by EAS provide subtle BGM at reception, Fysh at Edition and corridors as well as more powerful decibels in the lobby bar, ballroom and basement micro-club, Wonder Room. Naturally, for a property boasting Christian Liaigre cream doe-leather chairs, Calacatta marble surfaces and an intriguing art collection including a large Johina Concheso hanging in the lift lobby, the sight of black boxes was required to be kept at a minimum.

Project manager Chester Tan adhered to the demands of the interior designer and architect by ensuring EAS matched the vibe of each individual room with tailored loudspeaker systems. A combination of slim column arrays, white-finished cabinets and out-of-sight high ceiling pendants deliver the required SPLs without catching the eye of the discerning guest. Customisation is a byword to an experienced systems integrator, and EAS ensured its solutions were precisely added to the blueprints at the design stage.

With construction interrupted between 2020–22, the grand opening was delayed until December 2023. The EAS engineering team was called to site in varying, limited phases, as and when rooms became available for their overdue fitouts. "The inevitable construction delays helped our coordination efforts, and we could spend longer looking into the design," says Tan. "The longer lead times helped to ensure all the specified products on the bill of quantity arrived on time."

At the lobby and reception area, a combination of Tannoy CMS 6- and 8-inch ceiling speakers deliver consistent BGM coverage. Powered by a QSC CXD multichannel amplifier, various speaker outputs are controlled from a Q-SYS TSC-55w control panel. A circular stairwell leading to the B-1 basement is adorned by pairs of Atlas 5T passive line array speakers in the same white finish as the walls they are recessed within. Despite the harsh acoustic surroundings, the accurately positioned 5-inch enclosures create a surreal ambience to those journeying between levels.

With natural daylight percolating through the overhead glazing, the white-walled corridors interconnecting public rooms on the B-1 and ground-floor levels are characterised by floral arrangements and hanging ferns. Continuing the lobby's theme, Tannoy CMS ceiling speakers provide a seamless room-to-room transition of carefully sourced music from the Marriott's music server. A height threshold of 3.5m was applied to distinguish whether 6- or 8-inch CMS models were installed.

EAS was requested to install several speaker brands into varying interconnected zones. The main bar is furnished with Martin Audio CDD10 enclosures, while Fysh at Edition is equipped with Tannoy VLS15 steerable loudspeakers. Other ground-floor zones have Martin Audio CDD10 and CDD8 speakers together with Tannoy 5-inch ceiling speakers. The interior designer insisted on the discrete placement of the seven Tannoy VSX 15DR subwoofers.

"We had to compromise on some of the recommended placements marked out for speakers owing to a conflict with the hotel's architectural features and interior design," explains Tan. "Working closely with the AV consultant, Jan Luszczek from Clair Solutions, we made plots using the sound levels. The Edition expects to serve to premium crowds in their high-quality event spaces, so there is no cookie cutter design. Customisation was

Making an entrance: the hotel's imposing lobby

Atlas 5T passive arrays are dwarfed by The Edition's greenery

A large proportion of EAS's work was in the divisible ballroom

common as the loudspeakers need to operate to their full potential in the various zones. Not only do the various speaker brands need to blend into the hotel design, they also need to match seamlessly as guests walk through various zones."

The Singapore Edition vibe changes in the lower-level ballroom, its pre-function area and the adjacent garden. Bathed under diffused natural light from floor-to-ceiling windows, the 600m^2 pillarless ballroom can be divided into three. The EAS team focused a large proportion of their work on the ballroom, reserved for fashion galas, corporate events and high-class weddings.

"Having adopted a site-wide Q-SYS backbone, Clair Solutions specified a standalone Crestron Control CP4 processor for the ballroom on account of the added functionality it provided at the time of procurement, including lighting, motorised projection screens and lifts," explains Tan. Cresnet network connectivity provides support for lighting dimmers, sensors, thermostats, keypads and other IP-controllable AV peripherals connected to the rack-mounted Cisco SG350-28P POE Ethernet switch. A Crestron TSW-760 7-inch touchscreen provides simple control for all parameters.

For the ballroom's 4K visuals, laptops and other inputs can be connected to eight wall plate receivers and transmitters over an HDBaseT network. The CP4 processor interfaces with a Crestron DM-MD16X16 CPU3 video switcher fitted with I/O cards which connects to a DM-RMX-4K-scaler. HDMI cabling ensures 4K connectivity to the three Christie DWU850 projectors fitted on customised lifts outputting onto Remaco TEN (XXL) projection screens. "Several AV connectivity panels have been added into the ballroom's architecture," continues Tan. "The vendor can set up a lectern, DJ booth or live stage in at least three locations, and these can be interlinked through audio, VGA and HDMI connectivity."

Like any modern-day ballroom, this needed to be a highly flexible space. However, the room's aesthetics could not be compromised at the expense of AV technology. "At first glance, the guest cannot see the AV technology because the three projectors and screens are retractable and are hidden from view when stored in the ceiling and not in use," he explains. "Although it took a lot of planning prior to installation, the ceiling speakers blend into the décor. The lighting fixtures are stored away and installed onto a Leviton/ETC Skyhook system when required."

Each of the three divisible sections is catered for by six Tannoy CMS 1201DC 12-inch ceiling speakers. Powered by a QSC CXD8.8Q eight-channel amplifier, Dante audio network processing is performed through a Q-SYS Core 510f integrated processor fitted with six CIML4 mic input cards, a COL4 mic output card and

Fysh at Edition is equipped with wall-mounted Tannoy VLS15 steerable columns

Martin Audio CDD10 enclosures provide higher SPLs in the main bar

a CDN64 Dante network bridge. The pre-function space is installed with Tannoy CMS 8- and 5-inch ceiling speakers powered by a QSC CXD4.3Q four-channel amplifier. In-wall Samsung QB13R screens provide digital signage for incoming guests.

Outside the pre-function area, the leafy courtyard has also been outfitted with a distributed Tannoy system of AMS 6DC 6-inch utility speakers. "As the hotel is in a heavily populated area, the loudspeaker system in the garden required some limiting," says Tan. "When we were tuning the speakers, the manager commented that the SPLs were excessive. Working with the consultant, we made further adjustments to ensure that it does not disturb the hotel guests or residents, without compromising the guest experience."

For The Singapore Edition's director of culture and entertainment, Hasnor Sadik, the *pièce de résistance* is the Wonder Room, which has a distributed system of eight d&b 5S 5-inch nearfield speakers powered by 30D four-channel amplifiers. For stage reinforcement, Clair Solutions opted for a d&b audiotechnik system of L-R dual Vi10P and single Vi7P speakers, and low frequencies are provided by five 21S subwoofers. Bidirectional audio is provided by a Q-SYS Core 510f integrated processor connected to a Q-SYS I/O-8 Flex expander, with four CIML4 mic input and COL4 mic output cards, together with a CDN64 Dante network bridge. "This is a useful feature during guest DJ evenings when the private room guests wish to receive the same input audio mix," explains Sadik. Audio can be managed from the wall-mounted QSC TSC 5.5-inch control panel. Connected to an A6000 processor, a Leyard TVF 2.5G 6m x 3.4m (WxH) LED wall provides visuals in 2400x1360 dot resolution. "This is a special venue because it is a club space, and we are equipped with a top-tier loudspeaker system," comments Sadik.

Wonder Room connects to the adjoining Pink Room private bar, which is equipped with four d&b 12S 12-inch cabinets and one

Tannoy AMS-6DC cabinets provide ground-floor BGM

21S subwoofer. "With a d&b audiotechnik setup in this space, Wonder Room and the adjacent Pink Room are set to prosper. Brand positioning is important when I promote spaces to clients," adds Sadik, previously a DJ at Zouk Singapore. "I fully appreciate the benefits of a good audio system. Many of the DJs I previously worked with suffer from hearing problems. Today, we need to consider the wellness perspective by limiting the SPLs and properly adjusting the EQ levels so that customers no longer need to shout to have a conversation."

The adjacent Punch Room has been installed with two Tannoy QFlex 16 self-powered speakers with Bi8-SUB dual 6-inch subwoofers powered by a D6 amplifier.

Unlike the mix of brands fighting for attention on the ground level, the level-two gym and spa, together with the ninth-level rooftop bar and swimming pool, combine similar loudspeaker components. Tannoy AMS 5- and 6-inch cabinets, CMS ceiling speakers and VSX 15DR subwoofers are powered by QSC CX-Q multichannel amplifiers. Equipped with standalone Q-SYS Core 110f processors, these zones are again controlled using QSC TSC 5.5-inch control panels.

"The simplified Q-SYS panel control functionality is straightforward to use overall," says Sadik. "There are a variety of set user levels so not all the personnel have access to the full range. The programming has been set at certain volumes including day and night modes throughout the hotel, but we don't want to make too many manual adjustments. But when the ambience and acoustics change in the room when extra people enter, you must be present to make those manual adjustments."

Requiring no further AV additions for the foreseeable future beyond software updates, The Singapore Edition leaves a strong impression on the aural and visual senses.

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