

Project manager Peter Burrows of Strand Lighting, describes an architectural dimming project on board the most famous cruise liner in the world.

# There is only one QE2

**D**espite the much publicised problems with completion of the refurbishment of the QE2, some aspects of the re-work were highly successful and were completed fully on time. Behind all the horror stories in the press lay an untold quiet success story for Strand's LD90 dimmers and Outlook systems.

Prior to the refit, a multitude of dimmer types had been installed in various locations around the ship. This amounted to a fairly jumbled situation, and one that was not easy to handle in terms of maintenance. As well as requiring a complete redesign and refurbishment of the ship's public area lighting, one of the main briefs for the lighting designers was to recommend a dimming solution from a single manufacturer, one which was proven as reliable and fully established in the marketplace.

The appointed lighting designers for the project were DHA Design, who's designer Peter Phillipson selected Strand Lighting's LD90 dimmers with Outlook Control Stations. Via Outlook push-button panels, scene-setting was provided for all



(Above) CARONIA RESTAURANT: Lighting sets the mood for an elegant evening of dining.

Pictures courtesy Cunard.



10

**C**ruising is no longer a luxury reserved for the rich and famous, and a cruise to the Caribbean, Mediterranean or the South Atlantic is no longer classified as a "once-in-a-lifetime dream". This year alone almost five and a half million people of all age groups will take a cruise, and that is only the USA and the UK. To successfully serve this expanding market cruise operators are building and equipping ships that are getting larger, more luxurious, and more sophisticated. These are vessels that can deliver everything a land-based vacation can offer, together with the added excitement of a different port of call, sometimes every day, during the cruise. Thus the cruise ship has become a hotel, gourmet restaurant, cocktail lounge, live theatre, theme park and shopping mall.

Today cruise ships are being built with theatrical facilities that are the envy of the West End and Broadway. The cabins, restaurants and lounges rival the facilities offered by the world's most elegant hotels. It is therefore not surprising that a company that has led in equipping so many venues ashore is taking the lead afloat.

To date Strand Lighting has been involved in the installation of architectural and entertainment lighting in over 30 cruise ships, operated by the world leaders in

the cruising industry. This has enabled the company to build up a standard of product and a level of service never before offered to cruise operators. A number of initiatives are in place designed to take the pressures and worries away from consultants, contractors, shipyards and operators alike.

First of all the equipment is a most important issue. Your choice will be one that you will live with for a very long time. Therefore any equipment that gives the benefit of upgrades without total redesign of a system is very welcome. Secondly Strand equipment is engineered to a level of quality designed to protect your investment. Your engineers will be the judge. The mechanics, the surface mount PCB's, and the workmanship will ensure years of hard unremitting use. A third consideration is functionality and local control. The design of today's public areas are masterpieces in form and composition. Shades, contrasts and colours of lounge and restaurant design must be realised by subtle and delicate lighting.

One room may serve many different functions on a cruise ship. Assembly room in the morning, chapel at noon, bingo-parlour at night. Your staff have better things to do than be expert lighting designers. Therefore controlling the lighting has to be as simple as driving a car, a few well understood and intuitive controls. A range of control panels with push-buttons, channel



## Cruising into the next Century

Peter Ed, of Strand's London Office discusses his company's commitment to the Cruise industry.

sliders, and LCD displays which can be programmed to perform almost any action, changing the lighting mood, adjusting heating and ventilation, raising and lowering window blinds, and even starting a film show.

The Premiere Network Manager is a unique Windows™ based on-line central system

monitor. This enables comprehensive control by an operator or another computer. Every single room out of 480 can be separately controlled. "All" rooms, room "groups" and individual rooms can be controlled with respect to events and presets, station lock-out security and room combinations.