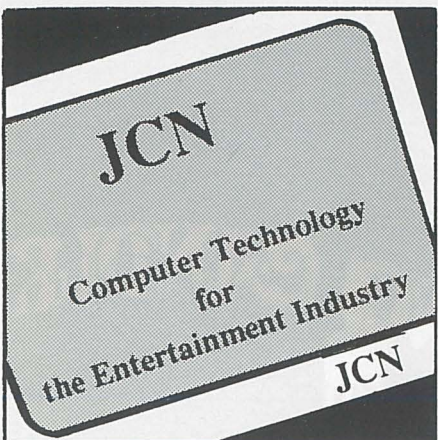


LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY



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And smile they do. Though devoid of spinners, strobes, and flashers, there is a lot of kinetic excitement in both spaces, thanks to wiggling silhouettes, mutating color washes, and the flickering light of *Phantom of the Opera*-inspired 9v "candles."

Exploring the interplay between darkness and light, daytime and night, each club is divided into discrete areas, allowing guests a choice of environments. One direction will take them into a dimly lit "voodoo village," lit primarily with 9v electric "candles"; another direction will bring clubgoers into a colorful beach environment, where the dance floor is located.

Three-dimensional cutouts of brightly colored Caribbean-style huts with tin roofs and wooden window sills are lit from behind to appear as though someone is home. Lighting throughout the beach/dance floor area is vibrant pink, blue, red, yellow, and green, with highly saturated color washes along the walls. And, to complement the island decor, food, music, and drinks are similarly Caribbean-inspired.

"There are a lot of templates of palm trees and color washes on the walls, lots and lots of the candles flickering at different rates. We installed 38 color wheels in each club, and then there are ellipsoidals and templates and fiber optics doing stars and rotating gobos. There's constant movement," says Billington, president of Ken Billington, Inc.

Java Jive opened June 1, 1988; Java Bay was launched June 15, two weeks later. Java Jive, encompassing two levels of Tokyo's Square Building, a seven-story structure filled with nothing but nightclubs, is located in Rappongi, one of Tokyo's most active nightlife sectors. Java Bay sprawls over the fifth floor of a mixed-use building in Shinjuku, an area less known for its nightclubs, but still quite active.

Lopata and Billington have collaborated on several clubs and restaurants over the last seven years. The first one they did together was New York's Red Parrot, for which Billington won an IES Lumen Award. Though it might seem that few projects require the level of the atriality that the Java clubs did, "all of my restaurants take a dramatic approach," says Lopata. "I consider lighting as important as design in creating total environments."

While many clubs suffer from budget cutbacks at the eleventh hour, constraints on the Tokyo projects were primarily energy related. "Our original design required 50,000w of power in each club. Then we found out that we only had 25,000w available to us in Java Jive, the first club we did, so we had to basically reduce our load by half," says

Projects

Java Jive,
Square Building,
Rappongi, Tokyo

Java Bay,
Shinjuku, Tokyo

Client: Casatec Ltd. Tokyo

Lighting Designer:

Ken Billington,
Ken Billington, Inc.
200 W. 70 St.
New York, NY 10023
212/362-4030

Project Designers:

Ken Billington, Jason Kantrowitz,
John McKernon

Interior Designer:

Sam Lopata,
Sam Lopata, Inc.
27 W. 20 St.
New York, NY 10010
212/691-7924

John McKernon, a third of the lighting team, along with Billington and Jason Kantrowitz. "So, where we'd be using 1,000w stuff in New York, we're using 400w stuff in Tokyo."

While the lighting designers would have preferred to use three-circuit low-voltage striplights along floors and ceilings in each club, one circuit had to be killed entirely in Java Jive, and both clubs' final design incorporated the ministrips along only the floors: Japanese-manufactured fluorescents fitted with blue Rosco gel sleeves were substituted along ceilings. And though 200 dimmers were originally planned for each club, only 96 survived the cutbacks.

Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.'s Expression control board was chosen for both clubs because the board "had to have a lot of submasters and bounce buttons" to accommodate the dance floor lighting as well as the nightly performances, says McKernon.

The trials did not end when the equipment was shipped. "Things were so tight that we didn't actually see all the lights on together until about two hours before Java Jive opened," says McKernon. "We didn't get the power feed for the dimmer board until two hours before opening. So it was more than a little hairy. By contract, Java Bay was a totally painless and wonderful experience. Everything had been done before."