performed visually.

The focal lighting vignette space is controlled by two stations tied together to function as a single unit. Sixteen presets are programmed for a scripted presentation. Manual sliders provide access to individual channels for a more interactive or customized demonstration. Programming of the presets is easily accomplished visually from the two control stations and can be quickly altered when props are changed or the lighting is adjusted. Programming adjustments are then transferred from the processor to a disk for back-up.

Because the colour booths are independently controlled, sources can be compared in any pair from the two booths.

The two booths are programmed so that any time a preset is activated, the HID sources are energized and controlled by shutter mechanisms.

Presets for the HID sources open and close shutters, rather than switching the lamps, to simulate an instant on/off. Each booth is controlled by a station which incorporates an LCD display that describes the programming for each preset, summarized as a lamp type, colour temperature and CRI, so that the instructor knows the generic specification for the source being displayed in each colour booth at any given time.

At the same time presets are selected for either colour booth, the AV interface sends an output closure to a multi-media interface device which interprets the closure and selects a slide that displays information about the source programmed for that preset. The information is presented on a large screen video monitor at the front of the main classroom space. The information for a single colour booth covers one-half of the monitor screen so the technical data about the source can be compared in the same side-by-side format as the visual presentation in the booths. The slides change instantaneously with the selection of presets. The technical data reinforced by a visual experience, and vice versa, provides strong foundation for understanding sometimes confusing concepts about colour perception.

SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

In general, the instructional method of providing technical information reinforced by a visual experience is intrinsic to the re-design of the lighting classroom. We have been very successful in using this technique with a live instructor in the space who provides the technical information and activates presets for the visual experience, augmented by the automated technical information support in the colour booth demonstration. Future plans for the space involve expanding the use of the AV interface/multi-media interface equipment. Through the two-way communication available, the multi-media software can be further developed to provide technical information, much like a live instructor would do, then automatically activate presets for the lighting demonstrations. The classroom will then be both a live and an automated theatrical experience for basic lighting education. ■

THE AUTHORS

Jeannine Fisher and Brian Liebel are members of Design +, a firm located in Berkeley, California, specializing in exhibit and lighting and controls systems design. Jeannine and Brian are regular guest lecturers for PG&E in the lighting classroom.

Big Apple *eatery looks back to the 30's*

A grand and glorious cafe reminiscent of Paris and New York in the 1930's was the idea behind Nick Valenti's design for Cafe Centro. Valenti, President of Restaurant Associates, directed New York designer Frederick Brush to create a spectacle restaurant. It would be both dazzling and stimulating to the eye as well as comfortable to its patrons.

The restaurant is located in the Met Life building (formerly Pan-Am), a landmark building on Park Avenue that spans Grand Central Station. The design revolves around three *"fire stations"* in full view of the diners. The live *"fire stations"* are a key design element, and their graceful and exciting execution sets Cafe Centro apart from any other restaurant in the city. Here is an intriguing balance between the bustle of the exposed kitchen and the comfortable glamour of the dining areas.

To help achieve perfection the designers chose Strand Lighting's Premiere advanced lighting control system. Premiere's ability to have a channel per dimmer per circuit, as well as the ability to program all four control areas from one single control panel was of prime consideration. As any discerning diner knows elegant food and efficient service will always be complemented by that most important additional ingredient, the lighting style.

To create the desired art deco look Frederick Brush designed, and built the lighting fixtures that grace the restaurant. He then created a system to use them in the most effective way. In addition to the three main areas there is a separate control for the Display Kitchen. A Premiere Command Station located in the dimmer room programs pre-set levels for all four areas. Each room has a dedicated local Eight Pre-set Remote station on which a variety of "looks" can be recalled. Among these are breakfast, sunny day lunch, cloudy day lunch, dinner, late night, and clean-up.

Cafe Centro has three distinct dining areas: the main restaurant, the private dining room, and the Beer Bar. The dining room seats 230, including the private room, while the Beer Bar seats 100.

The design excitement starts the second one enters. There is a terrazzo floor inlaid with an Art Deco pattern in marble. Large interior columns are accented with gold leaf, which is used above a sculpted frieze that depicts fish, fowl and other creatures of land and sea. The ceiling is a mixture of wood and plaster in varying heights, and Lalique-type custom chandeliers are hung round the room. A vivid red awning shades the Cafe's facade, and French doors open onto a terrace.

Excellent use is made of the abundant natural light that streams through the glass walls - the gold and reflective surfaces, as well as the soothing apricot colour that glosses the walls, give a warm glow to the restaurant.

The central design element is the glass-enclosed kitchen, where diners are able to see their food being prepared by live fire. The kitchen is stainless steel with brass accents, again emphasising the light-infused nature of the restaurant. There is a large rotisserie for roasting meats, around which there is guest seating on semi-circular banquettes. There is also a glass enclosed pastry station, where mouth watering desserts are created.

A special feature of the restaurant is the separate art deco Beer Bar. The style recalls the *"Glorious Days of Travel"*, when one booked passage on the Normandie, or flew on the Pan Am Clipper. The Beer Bar's entrance is in the style of a *"gangway"*, with burl wood walls and illuminated cubicles holding museum-quality art objects calling to mind 1930's travel. The carpet design includes a motif of ships, planes and trains which are not visible to the eye unless examined closely. Black lacquer panels with chrome accents make up the bar area, and curved exterior walls of glass block and stainless steel complete the 1930's feel. The entire restaurant is a perfect example of the scope and versatility of the Premiere system, the ideal recipe when the menu calls for a variety of lighting *"looks"* to complement, but not intrude, on the serious business of eating good food. ■

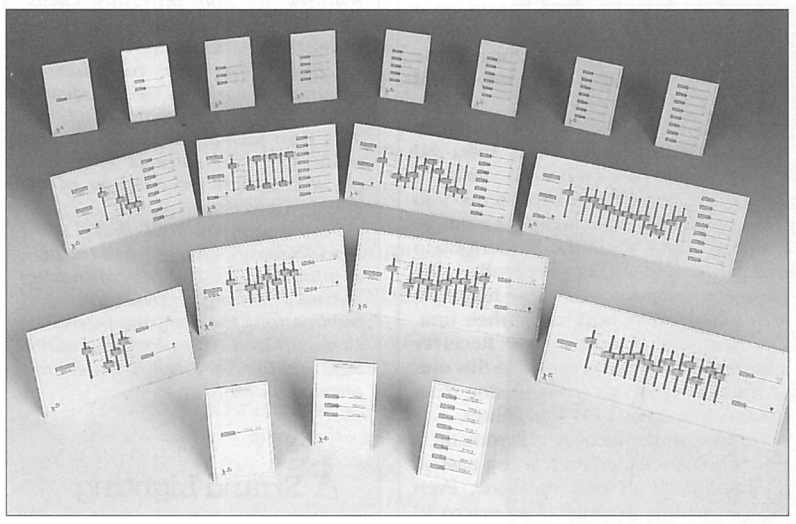
Product *News* Product *News*

A MORE FLEXIBLE OUTLOOK

The Outlook Interface has been developed to enable the new Outlook range of control stations to be used with dimming systems that do not directly support Outlook's Digital Network Control protocol.

The Outlook range of control stations was designed specifically for use with EC90 SV, CD80 SV, LD90, System 6 and Digital Environ, but there are many applications where the flexibility and features offered by Outlook will result in a requirement to upgrade the existing control system, retaining the old dimmers or a requirement to control dimming products from other manufacturers. In these circumstances one or more Outlook Interfaces may be used to provide the necessary support for Outlook where each interface provides up to 6 analog 0 to +10 volts dc signals for direct dimmer control.

A provisional data sheet is available for Outlook Interface from your nearest Strand office. ■



DIMMING COMPENSATION

Cable Compensation is now available with Strand Lighting's Advanced 'Supervisor' Dimmers.

Strand's pioneering work with cable voltage loss compensating dimmers has been enhanced and incorporated in its new line of CD80 and EC90 Supervisor modular racks.

This unique feature compensates for cable voltage drop by continuously calculating the loss and adding the required correction, after the user has entered the cable resistance for each circuit (calculated from length), and the system has "learned" the load characteristic. To gain the most from this feature, the system requires an elevated input voltage, up to 146V.

CD80 and EC90 Supervisors' Load Status Reporting facilities for their reporting modules are by far the most comprehensive on any dimmer system available. The new load status reporting facility works by "learning" the precise characteristic of the load at every fade level. This allows it to detect actual changes in load, not just the presence of a certain minimum load. If a circuit has four fixtures in parallel, the system will report the failure of just one of them. The system is capable of detecting changes of as small as 10% of the full load rating of the dimmer - and this is known as "load profile error".

All the familiar load and dimmer problems are reported, such as no load, overload, excess DC, SCR failure (open or short circuit), and over temperature. Another new feature with the CD80 and EC90 Supervisor is the possibility of examining the actual RMS load current, voltage and dimmer temperature for each individual dimmer, and total rack and system phase current and voltage with Strand's Windows® based Reporter PC™ software, available shortly in the StrandSoft™ software range.

A powerful feature of the new status reporting software is the ability to customise the system sensitivity for each dimmer, via a password protected option in the Reporter PC. This allows a technician to optimise the system for a customer's specific requirements. ■

NEW PARTNERSHIP ON TRACK

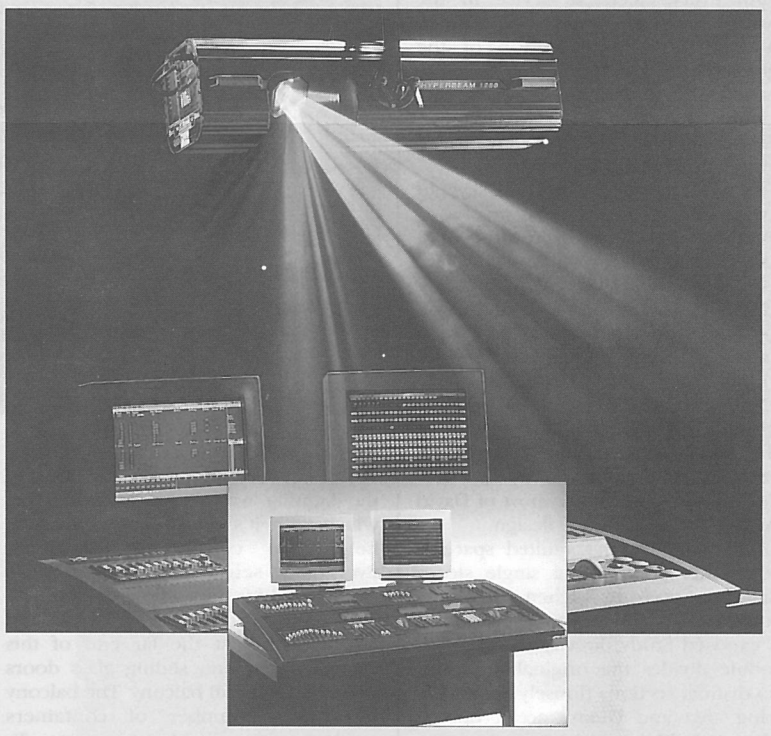
The commercial alliance between Strand Lighting and Martin Professional of Denmark, announced at LDI in November 1994, has borne fruit with the launch of the Strand Hyperbeam™ 1200 and 1288 scanners.

With Hyperbeam, Strand is bringing the latest technology in 1200W HMI digital multi-function lighting units to theatrical and TV markets. Offering continuous control of intensity, position, beam shape, colour, focus and special effects, using individual DMX channels for each attribute. Hyperbeam 1200 and 1288 complement Strand's existing range of moving light products.

The full-specification Hyperbeam 1288 offers, in addition to the Hyperbeam 1200's extensive features, the ability for secondary colour mixing (cyan, magenta, yellow), and dual 9-colour dichroic wheels.

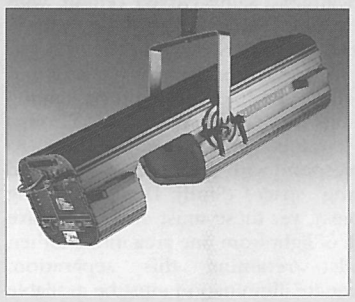
Hyperbeams may be controlled from any DMX-compatible lighting console, but to take full advantage of the powerful features of the scanners, Strand has created Tracker™ software which runs on its range of Strand 430/530 lighting consoles.

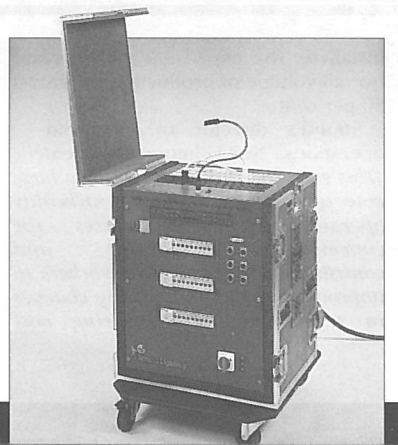
Tracker software provides a simple user interface in two ways. First, dedicated controls situated on the Strand 430/530 consoles provide direct access to individual attributes. A tracker ball controls the X-Y position of the beam, and four rotary controls can be paged to control other attributes. Secondly, the Tracker software manipulates the DMX channels, which have been patched to control a scanner's attribute functions, independently from the dimming element of the control. For example, attribute channels do not absorb the valuable DMX dimmer channels from the console - they do not reduce the console's overall dimming capacity. Tracker computes attribute values in a different way, bypassing dimming conventions (which would cause unwanted movement during a fade), and at the same time allows up to 32 attributes to reside on a single channel reference number. Thus control of all attributes of a Hyperbeam scanner may be addressed through the entry of the single intensity channel number only.



Running under Tracker software, the Strand 430/530 console submasters provide live control of any attributes loaded, with the control convention logically following the level of information held by the submaster.

Future versions of Tracker will provide a library of the most commonly available scanners and automated lights used today, and offer high-level control features such as direction inversion, group control, and automated recording options which will further assist the operator to program the moving light effects more efficiently. ■





SPECIFICATION AVAILABLE FOR TOUR RACK

An outline specification is now available for the award winning LD90 Touring Rack.

LD90 Touring Rack is available in two power 'sizes': 24 x 2.5kW dual output with either:

48 x 15A outlets
or 48 x Schuko outlets
or 48 x CEE17 16A outlets
or 48 x French Schuko outlets
or 10 x 6way Harting connectors with 60way 'hot' patch
or 10 x 6way socapex connectors with 60 way 'hot' patch mf OR
12 x 5kW single outputs with
12 x CEE17 32A outlets.

All racks come with an auxillary mains panel situated at the bottom of the rear of the rack. Contact Central Marketing for a copy of the specification. ■