

Corporate HQ chooses MX

Citibank's New York corporate headquarters is a commanding presence on the city's famous skyline. In today's banking climate visual communication is of prime importance. It is critical that the company philosophy is clearly stated to the marketplace, it is also critical that the company employees are able to receive the very best in training and information to give them the required edge to get the job done.

It is not surprising that Citibank completely redesigned and upgraded their communications facility in the spring of 1994. It was a fast paced and tricky undertaking. Down time was to be at a minimum and the project team knew that meeting deadlines would be the key to success.

Alfred D'Alessandro, DSI Video Systems President, as well as the bank's Project Manager, David Politano of DSI Video Systems, DSI's Project Engineer and Frank Sclafani, Project Engineer of MG Engineering, NY, were the nucleus of the team. The demolition phase included verification of the existing lighting design, removal of the previous

control system, all existing wiring, low and high voltage and unused conduit.

Citibank chose Strand Lighting to provide the versatile control and dimming system to give the new facility maximum flexibility. Included were a 48-Channel Mantrix MX, 3 Digital Environ cabinets, an on/off panic station, and a variety of dimmer modules and circuit breakers. These were installed in record time phased in with a variety of other projects necessary to the upgrade. The control room itself was completely renovated, new furniture was purchased. The audio/video aspects were completely renewed.

Today the facility comprises an auditorium with a stage, audience seating, A/V control room, green room, storage room and overflow area.

An endless array of clients can be accommodated, no two shows or presentations exactly alike. When required there is the capability to bring in a complete outside production unit for large scale projects.

Also it is possible to mount comprehensive video teleconferencing via fibre optic, satellite, or microwave. ■



The Lighting Design Partnership has won the Civic Category in the LIF's Lighting Design Awards 1994 for the re-lighting of Durham Cathedral, an important World Heritage Building and a fine example of Norman architecture dating from 1093.

The new lighting has enhanced the scope of the building's facilities and the cathedral is now better equipped to meet today's functional demands. The

Strand lights 900 year old Cathedral

foundations for the design brief were laid down by the Dean & Chapter of Durham Cathedral, and it is easy to see why they are so pleased with the new lighting and control systems that fully meet their expectations and can be justified both visually and financially.

The installation includes a Premiere control system and custom-labelled Control Stations to provide multiple lighting scenes for the many different types of services and functions taking

place in the Cathedral. Three duplicate main Control panels are comprised of 24-button Stations with an individual legend beside each button to denote the type of event.

To simplify the operation, these twenty-four presets are arranged as three groups of eight, with the three groups headed as "Daily & Communion", "Services", and "Special". Simple two-button Stations are located elsewhere to provide an Access/Security preset or Off.

Because the Cathedral does not have a suitable place to designate as a dimmer room, distributed dimming was called for. The required dimmer distribution meant that the most logical solution would be to fit Unidim dimmers in small numbers at various locations, with associated analogue control lines fanning out from 24-Channel Demultiplex Units at two convenient "hub" locations.

The luminaires have been fixed with special supports, and placed without any alteration to the original fabric of the building. The success of the installation is in the simplicity of operation - it is now possible to match the mood required for various services and concerts, day or night, both simply and quickly. ■

Consultant:
Lighting Design Partnership
Contractor:
Northern Light

"From the day that architect David Brown of Pierre Fowell Associates first spoke to us about this project, it was clear that Premiere's legendary flexibility was about to be tested!"

European Trading's Peter Burrows describes an unusual architectural project, where the lighting control system also waters the plants! The proposed site was a luxury penthouse. It was under construction on the roof of an existing building in central London. The "brief" was for just about every electrical device in the apartment to be linked, one way or another, into the operation of the lighting control system. This Premiere system was to include facilities that would:

- raise, lower and tilt motorised venetian blinds.
- open and close motorised skylight windows.
- allow clear/opaque control of a specialised interior window.
- give combined control of hi-fi and lighting from an infra-red handset.
- allow automated control of certain areas to exclude the need for user input.

Not forgetting of course, the lighting. Naturally most areas of the apartment were to be dimmed, but conventional scene-setting called for a few adjustments to make the most of David Brown's striking interior design.

A long rectangular vaulted space is broken up by a central single storey "island" comprising Kitchen and Utility rooms below, with an open staircase to an exposed Study directly above. This module divides the original area into two distinct sections (loosely defined as Living area and Dining area), one at either end. These two areas are interconnected by a pair of corridors either side of the "island". One of these includes the kitchen and the other has a glass ceiling providing borrowed light from the Study above.

A complication for the lighting design was the fact that all these areas were beneath the same curved ceiling, with the Study being bordered by railings, not walls. With this open-plan aspect to the interior, some thought was required to allow sensible allocation of lighting circuits into "Premiere Rooms". Groups of circuits had to be chosen to correspond with the three main defined "living" spaces (Study, Dining & Living rooms), yet these must avoid excessive spill of light from one area into another. Whilst retaining this separation, adequate illumination must be available

Premiere style of living



in the kitchen and in the interlinking spaces between the three areas. Most of the lighting was of low voltage type, which with its directional nature was helpful in controlling the light. Eventually sensible groupings were determined for the lighting circuits.

And what of the above mentioned house plants? At the far end of this elegant apartment, sliding glass doors open onto a small balcony. The balcony includes a number of containers stocked with suitable greenery. To water the plants, sprinklers were installed, fed from an exterior tap which is supplied with water by an electrically operated valve within the apartment. Electrical supply to this valve is derived from the Premiere system, which recognises it as a single Non-Dim circuit within a dedicated "Room". Watering the plants is therefore a simple matter of once a day pressing a push-button in the Utility Room!

Of course, once this facility is under control of Premiere, it is a simple matter to program the system for plants to be watered automatically at a chosen time once every day. The time of the event can even be linked to available daylight to occur for instance just after sundown, regardless of the time of year. As any gardener would know, automated

watering does not suit all seasons or all situations, so the option is provided to disable the automatic program, returning to manual operation, pressing the button when required.

Lest this apartment should begin to sound like a couch-potato's dream home, perhaps we should point out that many of the special features have been included for very good practical reasons. For instance skylight windows in the bedroom and in the main body of the flat are beyond reach for a person to open or close manually. Motorised versions must be the only presentable and practical solution. To avoid installing a profusion of different control panels (each with a different style) it was obviously sensible to incorporate Skylight control on the same panel as lighting control.

As a bonus, Premiere's powerful Macro functions have allowed a single button near the exit to be programmed to perform a series of actions consistent with a person leaving the apartment. One press on the last button turns all lights off in the Study, Kitchen, Living and Dining Rooms, and closes all downstairs Skylight windows. Elsewhere another button performs a similar function for the Bedroom and Shower Room.

Scottish Expansion

Strand Lighting has announced a \$2 million expansion programme, supported by the Invest in Fife partnership. This will take place over a three to four year period and create at least 70 new jobs at the Kirkcaldy factory, taking the total workforce to over 270 people. The majority of new jobs

will come in the first year.

This expansion follows on from recent major investments made by Strand in manufacturing and digital electronics technology. To make room for additional manufacturing at its Mitchelson site in Kirkcaldy, the company is transferring certain electronics assembly functions to new 40,000 sq. ft. premises at Lochgelly, where new warehousing and distribution facilities are already being

installed. The expansion will increase overall volume of production by almost 50 per cent.

Strand's director of European operations, Neil Gilmour, commented: "This exciting project represents a huge vote of confidence in our Kirkcaldy operation and emphasises the enormous commitment and contribution made by our workers to improving quality, supporting changes in technology and ensuring cost

effective production at this site."

John McDougall, Fife Regional Council leader of the administration, representing Invest in Fife, said: "Strand Lighting is an excellent example of how Fife can provide the quality of workforce and resources to compete against the best in the world."

The Kirkcaldy facility manufactures theatrical luminaires together with dimming and control systems, for the world's markets. ■

Another first!

Welcome to the first edition of *Lights! WorldNews*.

When the launch issue of *Lights!* appeared in January 1990 it was the successor publication to TABS. First published as long ago as October 1937, by what was then Strand Electric, TABS reached its final issue in February 1986. For researchers, authors and students who would like an index to TABS we are pleased to report that this is available as Strand Lighting Fact Sheet 14.

Regular readers of *Lights!* will notice a change in content with the current issue. We have decided, commencing with lighting controls, to focus on a specific topic in each issue, to give more in-depth coverage of any given subject.

However, so as not to disappoint readers who look for our regular features, we now introduce *Lights! WorldNews* in a newspaper style format. It contains interviews, news of important new installations around the world, as well as reviews of new products for creative lighting. This new format allows us to give more space to subjects than was possible within the confines of the colour magazine.

We hope you will find *Lights! WorldNews* an informative companion to *Lights!* continuing Strand's long tradition of publications for everyone interested in the art and technology of creative lighting for theatre, architecture, television and film. ■



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