

SAVOY THEATRE LONDON

THE STRAND STORY CONTINUES



On 28th December 1881, London's famous Savoy Theatre became the first to benefit from electric lighting.

Strand Lighting became associated with the history of the Savoy Theatre in the 1929 reconstruction, and again in 1960 when the 52 dimmer ways were replaced with 120 resistances and transformers remotely controlled from a Strand CD console, later to

be itself replaced by a Duet 2 in the early 1980's. Then on the 12th February 1990, fire destroyed the theatre. There was an immediate decision to rebuild, a task which took almost three years of planning and construction to faithfully recreate the 1929 Art Deco interior.

For the fourth time in the Savoy's history, Strand Lighting was chosen to supply lighting, controls and dimmers to the theatre. Theatre

Projects, under the direction of Jerry Godden, were consultants for the project, and Glantre Engineering of Reading was appointed to supply the new stage lighting system.

The Galaxy Nova control system is the latest version of a well proven control console that has become the system of choice in most major theatrical venues in the world. The EC90 MD dimmers represented the introduction of a fully digital

dimmer system, far removed from those original liquid dimmer pots of 1929!

The official re-opening of the Savoy Theatre took place on 12th July 1993 with a gala charity performance by English National Ballet.

Photographs by
Matthew Weinreb.



Central Plaza at night.

TOPPED-OUT IN STYLE

Hong Kong is well known throughout the world for its neon signs that display advertising for restaurants, hotels and tailors, but Central Plaza, the new 78 storey building dominating the city's skyline, uses neon as a bold statement of confidence and commitment to the city's continued long-term success.

Lighting designers Forma/Lightsource Division are credited for illuminating the 1,228 feet (374 metre) building situated in the heart of the business district of Wanchai. The facade was designed to incorporate golden yellow neon in the curtain wall, drawing the eye from illuminated columns at the base towards the sky. Both the intensity and shape of the neon can be controlled from a combination of Strand LD90 Digital Dimmers and a Premiere Control System embellishing the silhouette against the night time sky.

On the top of the tower is a triangular shaped glass pyramid topped with a tall spire. The base of the spire is illuminated by multi-coloured neon tubes, located at four

levels. By using the Premiere control system and LD90 Dimmers, the neon lamp colours are dimmed to various levels, providing a multitude of colour mixes such as white, violet, green and yellow which can be changed at any time. The Premiere is currently programmed so that it acts as a "colour clock", changing the colour sequences of the four bands every fifteen minutes through 52 variations, synchronised via a modem link to the Hong Kong Observatory.

As the fourth tallest building in the world after the Sears Tower, World Trade Center and the Empire State Building, Central Plaza's dominant location and strong visible presence prompted the suggestion that the "clock" could be programmed as a public "broadcasting" beacon for messages such as typhoon warnings. The flexibility of the Premiere system certainly lends itself to this type of creative application!

A glass pyramid, located on the 75th floor will be used for functions such as receptions and cocktail parties, as well as a gallery for the most spectacular view of the city. Following the same concept used for the neon, using multi-coloured floodlights and more LD90 dimmers, the interior structure of the pyramid can be washed in a variety of different colours, creating an atmosphere of varying moods.

These colours are visible from the building's exterior, providing an ever-changing appearance throughout the evening.

There is no doubt that Central Plaza sets an important precedence for Hong Kong, illustrating that a building can maintain its dominant presence day and night through innovative exterior lighting.



STRAND ASIA ON THE MOVE

Strand's Hong Kong office moved on February 7th to:

**7/F Corporation Square,
8 Lam Lok Street,
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Strand's three previous facilities incorporating Sales, Service, Engineering, Production, Distribution and Administration have been combined at the new address. All employees in the previous locations have been transferred to the new facility, and the consolidation will improve customer services and communications while simplifying operating logistics.