

THE LIGHTS IN THE HARBOUR

A new addition to the skyline of one of the world's most famous harbours is the sweeping outline of Hong Kong Cultural Centre, where Strand Lighting has completed one of its most prestigious installations.

The centre has been built on a 5.2 hectare site at Tsimshatsui in Kowloon, and rubs shoulders with the earlier phases of the development — a space museum and planetarium — and a later phase, the Museum of Art, which is due to open later this year.

Largest in stage size of the three halls is the 1750-seat Grand Theatre, which has been designed to cater for both Western and Chinese operas and musicals on a spectacular scale. In addition to the main stage, the Grand — also known as the Lyric Theatre — also opens up with both side and rear stages.

Lighting control is by means of a 450-way Galaxy 3, with 496 STM dimmers, and an impressive array of Prelude, Cadenza and Cantata luminaires, with assorted floods, spots and colour changers.

Claim for the largest seating capacity, at 2100, goes to the oval-shaped concert hall, which contains the world's largest pipe organ (8000 pipes!), and which will be the new home of the



Hong Kong Philharmonic. Lighting control is a 120-channel Galaxy, coupled with 144 STM dimmers and more than 100 luminaires — mainly Cantata and Cadenzas. The third hall is the centre's Studio Theatre, with seating for up to 538, depending on the stage and seating configuration. A further 120-way Galaxy controls a variety of more than 160 Strand luminaires.

Design of the Centre was by Jose Lei Meng-can, chief architect of Hong Kong's Public Works Department, who considers that the project was his 'commission of a lifetime'. Theatre consultant was John Wyckham.

SOHO UNCOVERED

An educational study visit to examine the lighting system at the world famous Raymond Revue Bar in Soho, London, produced some revealing pictures — and not just of the lighting!

To the surprise of the nude performers and staff, members of the Association of British Theatre Technicians were there just to photograph the light installation, which turned out to be more than 125 1952-vintage Patt 23's and 123's — the forerunners of the current Minim 23.

The Patt models were originally produced by Strand in its old days as the Strand Electric and Engineering Co Ltd, when they were the first diecast lanterns to be made. The Company took a risk on producing 500 lanterns —



considered to be 'a very large batch' in those days. By the time production ceased in the early 1980's, more than 250,000 had been produced.

NAOMI IS AIRLIFTED

Lighting student Naomi Chung was airlifted from the Academy for the Performing Arts in Hong Kong to Britain to fulfil her ambition — to work alongside the lighting designer John B. Reid. And it was all thanks to Strand Lighting.

Naomi, who is in her fourth year at the Academy, won a scholarship to help pay her expenses in Britain, for an opportunity of working with the Dance Advance Company (and subsequently John B. Reid) but it did not cover the cost of her flight. However, after being put in the picture, Strand Lighting Asia managing director Phil O'Donnell, came to the rescue — and provided the funds.



■ *Naomi gets to meet her man — lighting designer John B. Reid — and the chance of working with him, thanks to Strand Lighting.*

John Williams, head of the Lighting course at the Academy, said 'We had used funds earlier in the year for a group student visit to European theatres so we had to look for outside help.'