



SPIRITO



BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

When Spirito's owners sought technical infrastructure for a new, high-end nightclub experience, they did so with a strong desire to respect the venue's history and architectural design. This meant an audio installation capable of delivering outstanding performance from a minimal footprint and a lighting design that would accentuate rather than dominate.

Located in an old church in Brussels, Spirito mixes its traditional architectural heritage with contemporary design and technology. Spread across three floors, the venue has been created to answer a perceived gap in the market for a luxury venue that would attract high-end club goers and corporate clients. With that in mind, Spirito's owners opted for a Funktion-One loudspeaker system from Soundsystem and a lighting installation from SLE Sound and Lighting Engineering that adds colour and movement to the dramatic surroundings.

"We created Spirito to meet the needs of high-end clientele," said owner Jérôme Blanchart. "There were a lack of nightlife options in Brussels for these kind of customers. We also wanted to boost the social and cultural life in Brussels."

The entrance takes guests right into the heart of the venue, on the ground floor, which houses the main dancefloor and DJ booth, VIP areas, bar and cloakroom. It is sandwiched by a restaurant on the floor above and bathrooms in the basement below.

Funktion-One loudspeakers feature throughout.

Soundsystem's Tia Broodcoorens recalled: "The owners experienced and got to know Funktion-One in clubs in Ibiza.

As we've worked in Brussels for a long time now, and as we can present good references in Brussels, our client found our contact through his network in Brussels. We invited the owners to Prolight+Sound, Frankfurt in April to have a listen to the different loudspeakers in the Funktion-One demo room. It took about six months from the first contact to the final install!"

Soundsystem configured compact Funktion-One loudspeakers into zones. Tia continued: "During our negotiation period, there was a demo of another brand and they installed a small line array. The speakers from the line array were only two metres from the customers eating in the restaurant upstairs. The volume was not equally spread over the complete venue. The line array didn't have the result they expected from it - either it was too



loud or too quiet.

“There are many corners and small places within this venue and it is impossible to get a good sound all over the venue with a single system. We also had to take into account that the acoustics in this venue are difficult - it used to be a church and as far as possible, the interior of the church is still original, which means that there are a lot of sound reflections.

“Working with smaller speakers closer to the visitors gives more direct sound and fewer reflections. This zoning has the advantage that you can easily adjust levels using a laptop to suit the needs of those using each space. The venue is also used for corporate events, product launches and events like that, so if only a part of the venue is used, the rest doesn't need to be on, and doesn't need to add unnecessary reverberations in the venue. Also, the VIP area is very important for Spirito. They want to offer a personal approach to their customers and maximise their experience.”

Spirito's dancefloor is home to eight Funktion-One F88 loudspeakers and two BR218 double 18-inch bass reflex enclosures. Four F101's have been installed at the front and the back of the dancefloor, and six F55's deployed under the balcony at the main bar. A further four F101's and a BR115 bass unit service the VIP area. Soundsystem designed a DJ monitoring system, comprising two F81's and a Minibass 112.

“The DJ booth is almost in the middle of the dancefloor,” revealed Tia. “To avoid the delays coming from the main system, we needed a decent monitoring system for the DJ booth. The booth itself is very small. Only a mixer and two CDJs would fit. We have put two F81s in front of the DJ and a smaller sub - the MB112 - at ground level in the DJ booth. To some people's surprise, the feeling is really loud in the DJ booth.”

The upstairs bar has four F88 loudspeakers and two BR115 bass reflex speakers. Three more BR115's have been specified for the restaurant - also upstairs - along with eight F81 loudspeakers and

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two F55's. Downstairs, in the basement, two F55's deliver sound to the bathroom area.

The Funktion-One installation at Spirito is slightly unusual in that, despite it being a nightclub, it doesn't feature any of the loudspeaker manufacturer's big hitters, such as Resolution, Dance Stack or the recently launched Evo. Instead, Soundsystem has utilised the company's compact range of loudspeakers. Tia explained that while the functionality of the different ranges differs, the performance characteristics are very consistent.

"Of course, the smaller speakers don't give a large distance throw, that is not what they are designed for," she said. "What we really like about both smaller and bigger ranges is that they have a clear and open sound and represent all the possible details. There aren't that many speaker brands that build smaller speakers with such a high

efficiency, so louder levels are possible without any distortion - the sound stays clear. Another advantage is that for every situation there is an answer: short throw but very wide - at the bar; louder but still clear sound on the dancefloor - F88 combined with BR218; and clear sound in smaller cabinets - F81 and BR115 - for the restaurant area."

The smaller loudspeakers also answered the owners' objective of the sound system having minimal impact on the venue's aesthetic. Tia continued: "The owners had a clear and definite demand for respecting the design of the venue as much as possible. He asked for a discreet but very good sound system. That's why every loudspeaker is in black and the F88's have a mousse and a black grille with small holes. Every loudspeaker has the possibility to be fixed to a wall or to a ceiling with the different brackets, so they can be

attached anywhere."

Soundsystem has designed an XTA control system that is user-friendly and as autonomous as possible, explained Tia: "We have used three XTA DP548s and a XTA DC1048. With the DP548, we can program dynamic EQing for higher volumes, keep the balance right and avoid harsh sound when DJs try to push the limits. There is no sound engineer during the evening, so this is a very handy tool.

"With the processors, we could also design a custom-made and easy-to-use laptop control panel. With this tool, the management can change levels or mute zones directly in the processor without accidentally touching anything like the crossover or limiter settings. For the zoning, there is no need for an extra mixing desk or zone mixer. It's all on one touchscreen." A selection of MC² Audio amplifiers are also in

AUDIO MASTER

"The thing that motivates me is satisfaction – the satisfaction a client says they feel when they enjoy the sound experience that I designed."

RÜDIGER AUE
Audio Specialist

FRANÇAIS

Spirito, situé dans une vieille église à Bruxelles, associe architecture traditionnelle et design contemporain. Ainsi, lors de la mise à niveau de l'infrastructure technique, l'on considéra longuement l'histoire du lieu avant d'y installer un système sonore Funktion-One et une installation d'éclairage de chez SLE - Sound and Lighting Engineering. La piste de danse du Spirito affiche huit haut-parleurs Funktion-One F88 et deux doubles enceintes bass-réflexe BR218 de 18 pouces. Quatre F101 ont été installées à l'avant et l'arrière de la piste de danse, avec six F55 déployés sous le balcon du bar principal; quatre autres enceintes F101 et un haut-parleur de basses BR115 se trouvent dans la zone VIP. La société Soundsystem a conçu un système de veille pour le DJ comprenant deux F81 et une MicroBass 112. Le bar à l'étage dispose de quatre haut-parleurs F88 et de deux enceintes bass-réflexe BR115. Trois autres enceintes BR115 ont été demandées pour le restaurant, avec huit haut-parleurs F81, en plus de deux F55. L'entreprise SLE - Sound and Lighting Engineering a choisi des appareils de fabricants comme ShowTec, Briteq, Magic FX et MDG, alors qu'une console Martin Professional M1, un serveur de scène Arkaos Pro 2014 et une commande de moteur ShowTec PLE-30-040 servent à gérer tout le système. Dans l'ensemble, on obtient une performance audio exceptionnelle et un design d'éclairage qui accentue les effets sans pour autant les dominer.

DEUTSCH

Spirito befindet sich in einer alten Kirche Brüssels und kombiniert traditionelle Architektur mit zeitgenössischem Design. Bei der Aktualisierung der technischen Infrastruktur wurde die Geschichte des Treffs berücksichtigt, bevor man sich für ein Funktion-One Lautsprechersystem von Soundsystem und eine Beleuchtungsinstallation von SLE Sound and Lighting Engineering entschied. Die Tanzfläche des Spiritos umfasst acht Funktion-One F88 Lautsprecher und zwei doppelte 18-Zoll BR218 Bassreflexboxen. Vier F101s wurden an der Vorder- und Rückseite der Tanzfläche angebracht, mit sechs F55s unter dem Balkon der Hauptbar. Weitere vier F101s und eine BR115 Bassbox sind für den VIP-Bereich bestimmt, während Soundsystem ein DJ-Überwachungssystem entworfen hat, das zwei F81s und einen Minibass 112 umfasst. Die Bar im Obergeschoss verfügt über vier F88 Lautsprecher und zwei BR115 Bassreflexboxen. Drei weitere BR115s wurden neben acht F81 Lautsprechern und zwei F55s für das Restaurant bestimmt. SLE Sound and Lighting Engineering beschafft die Beleuchtung von Herstellern wie ShowTec, Briteq, Magic FX und MDG, während die Steuerung des Systems über ein Martin Professional M1 Pult, Arkaos Pro 2014 Stage Server und ShowTec PLE-30-040 Motorregler erfolgt. Allgemein ist das Ergebnis eine hervorragende Audioleistung sowie ein Beleuchtungsdesign, das eher betont als dominiert.

ITALIANO

Lo Spirito, che si trova in una vecchia chiesa a Bruxelles, mescola un'architettura tradizionale al design contemporaneo. Proprio per questo, quando l'infrastruttura tecnica è stata aggiornata, la storia del posto è stata segnata prima che fossero stati scelti il sistema di altoparlanti Funktion-One della Soundsystem e l'impianto di illuminazione della SLE Sound e della Lighting Engineering. La pista da ballo dello Spirito vede l'utilizzo di otto altoparlanti Funktion-One F88 e due altoparlanti Bass Reflex da 18 pollici BR218 double. Quattro F101 sono stati installati nella parte anteriore e posteriore della pista e sei F55 sono stati schierati sotto il balcone del bar principale. Altri quattro F101 ed un basso BR115 sono stati posizionati nella zona VIP, mentre Soundsystem ha progettato un sistema di monitoraggio DJ composto da due F81 ed un Minibass 112. Il bar al piano superiore è dotato di quattro altoparlanti F88 e due altoparlanti Bass Reflex BR115. Oltre a questi anche altri tre BR115 sono stati utilizzati per il ristorante, insieme ad otto altoparlanti F81 e due F55. SLE Sound and Lighting Engineering ha fornito apparecchiature di produttori del calibro di ShowTec, Briteq, Magia FX e MDG, mentre il controllo del sistema audio è gestito da una console Martin Professional M1, uno Stage Server Pro 214 della Arkaos ed un motor controller PLE-30-040 della Showtec. Nel complesso, il risultato è una performance audio eccezionale ed un design di illuminazione che accentua gli spazi piuttosto che dominarli.

ESPAÑOL

Spirito, ubicado en una antigua iglesia en Bruselas, mezcla la arquitectura tradicional con el diseño contemporáneo. Cuando llegó el momento de actualizar la infraestructura técnica, se tuvo en cuenta la historia del lugar antes de que se eligiera un sistema de parlantes Funktion-One de Soundsystem y una instalación de iluminación de SLE Sound y Lighting Engineering. La pista de baile de Spirito alberga ocho parlantes Funktion-One F88 y dos parlantes reflex de bajos BR218 dobles de 18-pulgadas. Se instalaron cuatro F101 en el frente y la parte posterior de la pista de baile, con seis F55 desplegados bajo el balcón en el bar principal. Otros cuatro F101 y un parlante de bajos BR115 suministran la zona VIP, mientras que Soundsystem diseñó un sistema de monitoreo de DJ compuesto por dos F81 y un Minibass 112. El bar de planta alta posee cuatro parlantes F88 y dos parlantes de bajos reflex BR115. Para el restaurante se especificaron tres BR115 más, junto con ocho parlantes F81 y dos F55. SLE Sound and Lighting Engineering suministró artefactos de fabricantes como ShowTec, Briteq, Magic FX y MDG, mientras que el control para el sistema es manejado por una consola M1 de Martin Professional, un servidor para el escenario Arkaos Pro 2014 y controladores PLE-30-040 de ShowTec. En general, el resultado es una sobresaliente performance de audio y un diseño de iluminación que es más lo que acentúa que lo que domina.



place to power the system.

SLE Sound and Lighting Engineering's lighting design focusses on respecting the building's architecture, again with a discreet installation, while accentuating its historic features. The company supplied a variety of fixtures from manufacturers including Showtec, Briteq, Magic FX and MDG. Control for the system is handled by a Martin Professional M1 console and an ArKaos Stage Server media server.

Discussing the installation, SLE's Fabian d'Allaba revealed: "Our aim was to create a discreet design but our decisions were also influenced by the economic impact and the quality to price ratio. We want to stay ahead, so we normally change our lighting systems roughly every two years. "There were some challenges with the Spirito project, such as suspending eight rigging points, each with a load of two tonnes. The structure/truss moves, which makes things harder, plus implementing the wiring for the lighting system was complicated too. But we are happy with the result and look forward to renovating and innovating the systems on a regular basis."

Soundsystem's Tia is also happy with the finished result: "We are very happy now the project is completed. Brussels is the capital of Europe and Spirito is situated in the middle of one of the most affluent areas in Brussels. It attracts people who

seek exclusive experiences.

"The venue, being an old church, is unique and attracts people and companies who want to spend their time in a different way. The look of the venue is gorgeous, although that's a personal thing, of course. Visitors are very well treated - the approach is very professional - they receive their personal corner or table during the club nights and a high level of service. The approach is very personal - your car will be parked for you, the waiter is very attentive, and things like that.

"It's not a club sound as we are used to with Funktion-One, which is new for some people. The owner has invested in excellent décor, drinks and customer experiences. Funktion-One fits into this approach because it is a high-end loudspeaker, which adds to the overall exclusiveness of Spirito."

Jérôme reflected: "Working with Soundsystem was not particularly different than working with other technical companies but Soundsystem gave us a customised installation that answers what Spirito really needs. Today, we have quality equipment that does not spoil the charm of our architecture. We did some tests and different sound set ups to experience which one was the best for our type of activities, and Soundsystem's Funktion-One system was the best option." 

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SOUND

12 x Funktion-One F88 loudspeaker; 2 x Funktion-One BR218 bass reflex enclosure; 6 x Funktion-One F101 loudspeaker; 6 x Funktion-One BR115 bass reflex enclosure; 11 x Funktion-One F55 loudspeaker; 10 x Funktion-One F81 loudspeaker; 2 x MC2 Audio T4-250 amplifier; 3 x MC2 Audio T500 amplifier; 2 x MC2 Audio T1000 amplifier; 5 x MC2 Audio T1500 amplifier; 2 x MC2 Audio T3500 amplifier; 3 x XTA DP548 audio management system; 1 x XTA DC1048 processor; 1 x Novacooustic DC4000 digital matrix loudspeaker controller

LIGHTING

22 x Briteq BTW36L3 Wash moving head; 38 x JB Systems Showtec Planospot LED fixture; 1 x Martin Professional M1 lighting console; 1 x ArKaos Stage Server media server; 14 x MagicFX Power Shot effect; 7 x MagicFX CO2 jet

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