

Venue Review



MADE UP LTD

Space

For nearly 20 years Space has oozed kudos and cool, attracting all nationalities with a progressive line-up and buzzing vibe. UK installers Blue Box explain how they transformed its sound.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The exterior signage for Be @ Space; DJ Jo Gaehtler in the main room; Bluebox's David Cole and Mark Metcalf behind the DJ booth in the main room

When nightclub operator Pepe Rosello took over Space 19 years ago, it was a humble terrace where people used to meet in the mornings for coffee. Dancing was first introduced by UK DJs Alex P and Brandon Block, when the DJ booth was inside the bar in a little window. After many years and many transformations, Space has now evolved into a world-famous club, with six different areas - indoors and outdoors - including the much-loved and now covered Terrace, where clubbers dance away Sunday's afternoon sun to funky Balearic house, cheering the planes that come in to land overhead. The start of this summer saw the usual annual upgrades to the club's sound system by installers Blue Box-London, whose experience of Funktion One dates back to its inception in the '90s. Blue Box's journey to Space started after they supplied a Funktion One system for the VIP tent at Homelands in 2001. So

impressed was promoter Darren Hughes that he invited Blue Box to Ibiza the following spring to meet Pepe Rosello and Fritz Pangratz with a view to installing the system at Space. Explains Blue Box's Mark Metcalf: "As it turned out we ended up renting a system for their famous Terrace that first year. The following year we came very close to selling them

"The system worked out really well and we started running into people in London who were talking about the new buzz at Space"

a system for the main room, but they decided to buy a Dynacord Alpha system from a company on the island, not least to ensure they had local support. But a year later they were back on the phone asking us to re-quote. We realised that to give them the confidence they needed, in what was then a relatively new system, we would need local representation on the island, and as Ibiza relies more than usual

on contacts and networking, Blue Box formed a relationship with local engineer Hugo Quintanilla Cons, who agreed to represent the company on the island, and Blue Box Ibiza was born." They set up a facility on the island and set about designing a system for Space. Says Mark: "Initially we started with the main room, installing twelve F218's and

eight Res 9's. We also installed two bar systems, using F88's, and two rear fill AX88's. The system worked out really well and we started running into people in London who were talking about the new buzz at Space." Since then Blue Box-London, latterly made up of the team of Mark Metcalf and David Cole, have designed a Funktion One system in a new room each year; The Premier Etage, The

MADE UP LTD



Venue Review

Red Box, La Salon and, most significantly, the new Covered Terrace. Never content to rest on their laurels, the Blue Box team upped the anti in the main room in 2007 by replacing the F218's with the self powered version of the new F221. This year saw a major upgrade to the monitor system, from Blue Box standard to supersize. The new system comprises two F121, two custom 12" and four Res 2SH mid highs. "We have also put in the new XTA controllers and tightened up the bass," says David Cole. Also new to the club this year is chill out room Le Salon, which is opposite the Covered Terrace and was predominantly designed by owner Pepe. The Legendary Terrace had to be covered due to noise regulations and the change in licensing laws this year, which state that all clubs must close at 6am and not re-open until 4.30pm.

SOUND STATS

MAIN ROOM: 8 x Funktion One Res 9 self powered mid high speakers, 8 x Funktion One F221A bass speakers, 1 x XTA DP448, 1 x XTA D2 BAR FILLS: 7 x Funktion One F88 speakers, 2 x QSC PL236 DJ BOOTH: 4 x Res 2SH mid high speakers, 2 x Funktion One F112 custom 12" mid speakers, 2 x Funktion One F121 bass speakers, 1 x Funktion One E45, 2 x Funktion One E25, 1 x XTA DP226, 1 x XTA D2, 1 x Pioneer DJM-1000, 2 x Pioneer EFX 1000, 2 x Pioneer CDJ-1000 MK3, 1 x Pioneer DJM-800, 2 x Pioneer DVJ-1000, 4 x Technics SL1210, 1 x Midas 162 mixer

The lighting side of the venue is co-ordinated by production manager and lighting designer Pedro Comesaña. He came to the island originally on behalf of Halo Lighting and went on to set up his own lighting company there last year. At Space, Pedro values the benefits of using LED lighting for architectural purposes. He explains: "There is a big problem with power supply in Ibiza and everybody knows that LEDs use very low consumption and don't emit too much heat." The LED lighting for the club is designed by Halo Lighting in the UK and installed by Pedro's company LEDhouse in Ibiza. The main terrace features only

a very minimalistic lighting rig because of its daytime appeal. But it is the main room - windowless and dark for a late night, more techno-based dancefloor - where the lighting comes into its own. Three Avolites Pearl lighting consoles control a huge rig, which comprises 18 Martin Mac 550s, 12 Martin Mac 600s, six Kryptons, six MX10s, four Atomic stobes and 100 Par 64s. Pedro says: "The Avo team is great." The production at Space is very much an ongoing process that is continually updated. Although the visuals at the venue are nothing to match Eden's new installation, perhaps the SVM-1000 will bring about new developments.