

DICE CLUB

VENUE
GERMANY

BERLIN



DICE Club's Main Room



Berlin is special. As soon as the cab began to weave through the streets from the airport on the eastern side of the city, I sensed a calmness. From a philosophical but relatively uneducated viewpoint, I was able to inwardly project theories about the peace being the product of a reaction against the city's disturbed past, which has recoiled so far that it is now one of the most pastoral cities on earth. I haven't travelled enough to stand by such an observation, but I sensed something special.

The place is clearly steeped in history, but it isn't just that which gives it its soul. The ex-DDR property has flooded the market with available residences and so rent is incredibly cheap, in the East at least. A decent one bedroom flat, which a couple could share, costs as little as 280 euros per month, which entices lots of artists to the city and creates a hotbed of youth culture. Along with that, there is reasonable money to be made by these artists in the thriving bar and club scene, meaning they can follow their art and still have a good standard of living.

My information source is Benedikt Koch, the partner in Thöne & Partner GmbH & Co., exclusive distributors of Funktion One in Germany, and disciple of the Tony Andrews' gospel of audio implementation.

Thöne & Partner's relationship with Funktion One hails back to the days when Tony Andrews and John Newsham (R&D and pioneers of Funktion One) were still part of the Turbosound fold that they had started in the late 1970s, and departed in 1992. Despite Benedikt and Michael Thöne's professional roots being in events services, their relationship with Funktion One, as well as their pragmatic approach to work, has earned them a trusted reputation with some of Germany's most cutting-edge operators. It was particularly the sight of Funktion One's Dance Stacks in Berghain (**mondo*dr** 15.5), featured in the film 'Berlin Calling' that cemented the audio brand's reputation in the mind of DICE Club operator, Isan Oral. Benedikt explains: "There is a movie called 'Berlin Calling', the story of a DJ that begins shortly before his breakthrough, who gets ►



Second Room

► lost in drugs and completely breaks down. It was filmed in Berlin and in Berghain. All the scenes where the DJ plays in the club are in venues where Funktion One is installed. He saw the situation whilst sitting in the cinema, the moment when the horns of the Dance Stack are seen - Funktion One, Funktion One, Funktion One - he really understood there was something serious behind it, that people are aware of and love very much it. That was the thing that made him have a look at it."

Isan was nurturing the concept of a post-industrial clubbing space, primarily focused on substance and underground values, and had secured premises with a functional background. The building, situated in the east of the city, was once an electrical power station, something that hasn't been ignored in its transformation into DICE Club.

We exit a glorious late summer's afternoon through a sheet metal door before passing a signal bay, reborn as a cloakroom. As the space opens out into the main bar area, which conjoins the Main Room and the Second Room, it is difficult to immediately take in the

unfamiliar setting of transistor traps, awash with pink light, that form the bar's backdrop. More familiar to me is the north-English accent that echoes in the distance; it is that of Matthew Burton, Technician at DICE Club, who left Nottingham a year ago to be part of the Berlin scene. We begin our tour in the Main Room.

Two heavyweight Dance Stacks occupy the front two corners of the room, straddling the DJ booth. The accustomed set-up of one DS210 supplying the mid-range and high frequency power and two DS15 horn-loaded 15" devices providing upper bass and low-mid speed, is bolstered by two F221 (80 ohm) bass enclosures. Each flank of the room has a centrally focused R2SH - the high / mid silver feature of the 3-way Resolution 2 (R2) - to form points three and four of the five-point set-up. The fifth takes the form of two R2's positioned together at the centre of the back wall. A further two R2's have been placed in the DJ booth as monitors.

The system is supported by MC2 E-Series amplifiers with Funktion One branding and by XTA Processors, which also bear the Funktion One name. It is another manufacturer collaboration, a DJ mixer



Main Room view from the upstairs bar

developed by Formula Sound and Funktion One - the FF-6000 - that sparks up a conversation between Matthew and Benedikt. "Its idea is to avoid any change of the sound, digitally - the shit that can happen between the record being played, and the speakers - to have a complete working chain of equipment," explains Benedikt. DJs aren't always easy to convince, some find the other two alternatives, which have merits of their own, more appealing. But Matthew is certain of his favourite: "This is the best out of the three, and with the EQs it's best as well. You can tell the difference with the sound straightaway. A lot of DJs are more interested in the effects they can use rather than the sound."

Whilst the minimalist design of the Main Room is extended into the Second Room, its feel is differentiated by an LED wall, made up of V:LED Via LED panels, that sweeps down one side of the room and behind the concrete-constructed DJ booth, acting like the room's horizon. An oversized mirror ball, complete with hanging wellies - a tongue-in-cheek reference to the club's opening being delayed by six months due to flooding - adds further movement.

The room is perfectly poised for an intimate party for about 150 people, which can take an independent musical direction from the Main Room, and packs a big punch with the Funktion One install. Two Res 2's, supported by a F221 bass enclosure are backed up by two R2SH speakers, with two Res 1's monitoring the DJ booth. Again amplification comes via Funktion One branded MC2 E-Series amps, with processing from XTA.

In the peripheral zones, like the entrance point between the two rooms and in the upstairs bar, a combination of R2SH speakers, direct radiating F88 speakers, F81 speakers and a MB212 mini-bass unit supply infill sound.

Discussing Benedikt's involvement as Funktion One's representative, owner Isan said: "In meetings and briefings, Funktion One convinced us of the possibility of upholding the most actual state of the art system, which is done by regular updates. That gives us the possibility to run the newest and best PA stuff, and bring the best sound and technical equipment into the club, on the DJ booth, and into the ears of the crowd to satisfy them all... which is the main objective of ►

► DICE:"

Revered lighting designer Skudi Optics has configured the atmospheric lighting scheme, which highlights the raw architectural elements of the building. Colour-changing coil lighting features - fitted with V:LED LED RGB 450 - in the Main Room, along with a series of Litecraft LED Studio Par RGB Pro lighting fixtures, dictate the mood light of the space. The Litecraft fixtures are used elsewhere in the club for the same purpose.

Skudi has mapped the architecture that backs the DJ booth, providing a canvas for cutting-edge visuals to be projected onto the jarring landscape, forming part of a technological aesthetic free of moving heads. Skudi explains: "Moving heads are very widely spread and seen everywhere, and we decided to have something more unique and not to go the mainstream."

Throughout my visit to Berlin, an underlying theme was one of passion. The taxi driver about his native, and revived east side of the city, Benedikt with his belief in Funktion One's products and ethos, Matthew's commitment to finding and immersing himself in a razor-sharp club scene, Skudi to consistently pushing boundaries and Isan for concocting the notion of DICE. The venue oozes underground-style and champions musical substance through its contemporary visual design and an inspired audio installation. **M**



Benedikt Koch

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SOUND

MAIN ROOM: 2 x Funktion One Dance Stacks (1 x Funktion One DS210; 2 x Funktion One DS15; 2 x Funktion One FF221 80 ohm); 2 x Funktion One R2SH; 4 x Funktion One R2 (two as DJ monitors); 2 x Technics 1210 Mk3 turntables; 2 x Pioneer CDJ-1000 CD decks; Funktion One / Formula Sound FF-6000 DJ mixer; 1 x Pioneer DJM-800 DJ mixer; 1 x Allen & Heath Xone DJ mixer

SECOND ROOM: 2 x Funktion One R2; 2 x Funktion One R2SH; 1 x Funktion One R2; 2 x Funktion One R1 (DJ monitors)

AUXILIARIES: 2 x Funktion One R2SH; 2 x Funktion One F88; 1 x Funktion One MB212; 4 x Funktion One F81; MC2 E-Series amplifiers and XTA processors throughout

LIGHTING

Multiples of Litecraft LED Studio Par RGB Pro; V:LED LED RGB 450; V:LED Via 37mm

www.dice-club.de

FRANÇAIS

Benedikt Koch, partenaire de Thöne & Partner GmbH & Co., distributeur exclusif de Funktion One en Allemagne, et disciple des principes de Tony Andrew en matière de mise en palce audio, a été approchée par Isan Oral, propriétaire du DICE Club, après que ce dernier a vu la présence de Funktion One dans le film 'Berlin Calling'. Le club post-industriel - installé dans une ancienne centrale électrique - a choisi pour son concept d'éclairage les designers acclamés dans tout Berlin Skudi Optics. Deux Dance Stacks imposants occupent la salle principale et permettent d'atteindre un système deux à cinq points qui est complété par deux enceintes R2SH séparées et des Resolution2's jointes en position centrale sur le mur arrière. Les éclairages de la deuxième pièce comprennent un panneau en V-LED et une autre configuration Funktion One. A travers le thème de la visite de Berlin on retrouve aussi celui de la passion, qui se révèle dans chaque aspect du projet DICE. Ce lieu met en avant un style underground et une substance musicale forte à travers un design visuel minimaliste et une installation audio inspirée.

DEUTSCH

Benedikt Koch, Gesellschafter von Thöne & Partner GmbH & Co., dem Alleinvertriebshändler von Funktion One in Deutschland und Anhänger der Gospel- und Audio Anwendung von Tony Andrew, ist vom DICE Clubbesitzer Isan Oral kontaktiert worden, nachdem er die Präsenz von Funktion One in dem Film 'Berlin Calling' gesehen hat. Der postindustrielle Club - in einem ehemaligen Kraftwerk - ist mit einem Beleuchtungskonzept ausgestattet worden, das durch den gefeierten Berliner Beleuchtungsdesigner Skudi Optics konzipiert worden ist. Zwei schwergewichtige Dance Stacks füllen den Hauptraum aus und bilden zwei Punkte des Fünf-Punkte-Systems, das durch zwei separate R2SH Lautsprecher und zwei angrenzenden Resolution 2's in zentraler Position an der Rückwand ergänzt wird. Höhepunkte im zweiten Raum umfassen einen V-LED Bildschirm und eine weitere Funktion One Konfiguration. Während des gesamten Berlin-Besuchs war eines der grundlegenden Themen die Leidenschaft, was ebenfalls für das DICE Projekt gilt. Der Treff ist voller Underground-Stil und vertritt durch sein minimalistisches visuelles Design und eine inspirierte Audio-Installation musikalische Substanz.

ITALIANO

Benedikt Koch, discepolo dell'implementazione del gospel dell'audio di Tony Andrew e socio nella Thone & Partner GmbH & Co. (distributore esclusivo della Funktion One in Germania), è stato avvicinato dal proprietario del DICE Club Isan Oral dopo aver notato la presenza di Funktion One nel film "Berlin Calling". Nel club post-industriale - sito in una vecchia centrale elettrica - è stata sviluppata una nuova concezione dell'illuminazione dall'acclamata società berlinese di design, la Skudi Optics. Nella Stanza Principale del club sono presenti due grandi impianti audio (Dance Stacks), che ricoprono circa due punti del sistema a cinque punti, completati dalla presenza di due altoparlanti R2SH tra loro separati e da due Resolution 2 tra loro uniti, il tutto in una posizione centrale e a ridosso del muro. Gli elementi salienti della Seconda Stanza sono invece rappresentati da uno schermo a pannello V-LED e da un'ulteriore configurazione Funktion One. Tema fondamentale che ha caratterizzato l'intera visita a Berlino, è stato quello della passione, che ha visto coinvolti tutti i partecipanti al progetto del DICE. All'interno del locale fluisce uno stile underground e si percepisce una decisa impronta musicale grazie al suo design visuale minimalista e alla presenza di un impianto audio d'ispirazione.

ESPAÑOL

El propietario del Club DICE, Isan Oral contactó a Benedikt Koch, socio de Thöne & Partner GmbH & Co., distribuidor exclusivo de Funktion One en Alemania y seguidor de la implementación de audio de Tony Andrew, después de ver el funcionamiento de Funktion One en la película "Berlin Calling". El club postindustrial, que ha sido instalado en una antigua planta de energía, ha sido remodelado con un concepto de iluminación diseñado por la aclamada firma de diseño de iluminación de Berlín, Skudi Optics. Dos pesados sistemas Dance Stacks ocupan el salón principal contando con dos puntos del total de cinco puntos del sistema. Lo completan dos altavoces R2SH y dos altavoces adjuntos Resolution 2 que se encuentran en una posición central en el muro de atrás. Algunas de las características en el segundo salón son una pantalla de video en panel V-LED además de otra configuración de Funktion One. Durante la visita a Berlín, la pasión fue un tema recurrente y se aplica muy bien al personal que participó en el proyecto de DICE. El local irradia un estilo underground y defiende la sustancia musical mediante su diseño visual minimalista y una instalación de audio inspirada.