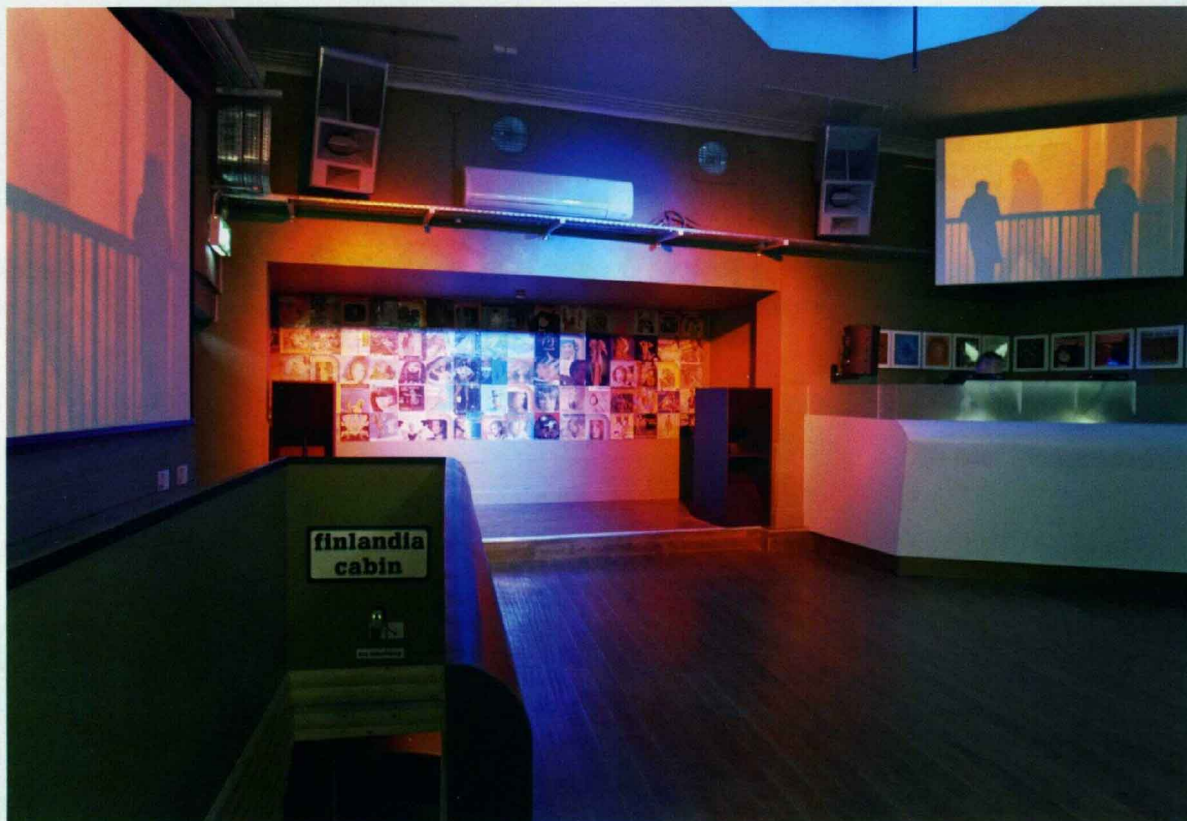


BIG CHILL HOUSE

LONDON



Katrina Larkin and Richard Bigg are in a cafe bar in London's King's Cross, drinking tea and looking over at the Georgian facade behind which the latest Big Chill adventure is taking shape.

Though the deal was done to acquire the building in January, the development process since has been far from straightforward. A planned April launch was pushed back to May, then June, and finally to after the Big Chill festival (with which they have made their name) where it was officially announced, like the bar two years before it, to a chilled but enthusiastic crowd.

This year's Big Chill festival comprised the usual mix of music, comedy, film, art and performance, with a huge Body and Soul therapy area, expanded children's arena and quality food and drink - a far cry from the high energy festival experience stereotype of cattle herd crowd management techniques, bad burgers and warm beer.

Setting their stall out to be more than your average festival delights the Big Chill's customers, but it comprises special challenges. The Big Chill operation is defined by its quest for quality and attention to detail - no small mission in a site that hosts 35,000 people.

"When you only see people once a year the pressure is on to deliver absolutely everything within a set time frame, which can feel from our point of view like a military operation," concedes Katrina. "The pressure is on."

The BC team, however, are largely successful, the indicator of which is the event's ongoing popularity, and the passion with which festivalgoers talk about the Eastnor Castle experience. But for Katrina and Big Chill co-founder Pete Lawrence, whose music programming defines the brand as effectively as its creative, eclectic and inclusive ethos, the opportunity to bring the event to life year round was tempting. And so the partnership with Richard Bigg's Cantaloupe Group was formed and the Big Chill Bar was launched, providing chillers a place to visit year round, and its owners the opportunity to explore more music, art and conversation than a single weekend



could ever allow.

Fast-forward two years to 2006, through countless plaudits and award ceremony successes, and Brick Lane's Big Chill Bar is about to be joined by another bricks and mortar manifestation of the festival philosophy.

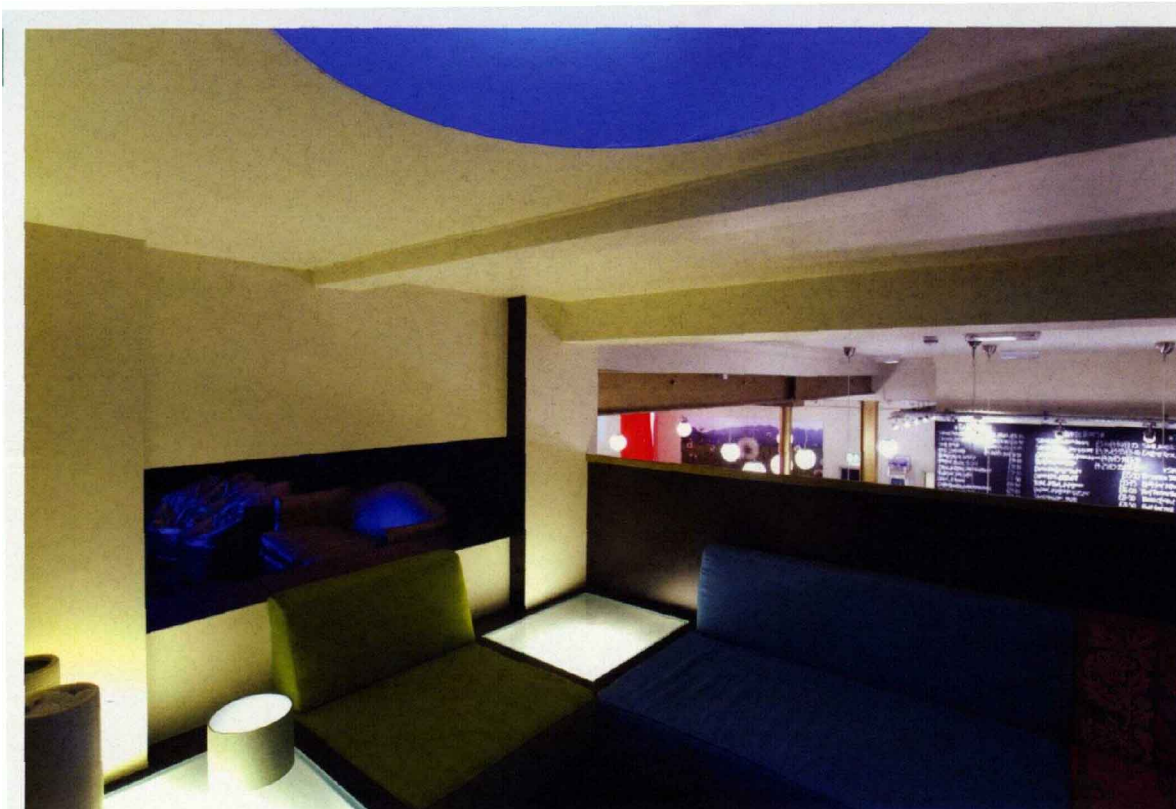
If the 220 capacity Bar's single room and low ceilings limited what Katrina and Pete could do with the space, the Big Chill House has no such restrictions. With 1,246 square metres and a total capacity of 550 spread over four floors, their new King's Cross venue marks the beginning of a whole new chapter for this innovative multimedia and entertainment brand.

When *mondo**dr visited the House it was full of people working hard to bring the project to completion. The balcony downstairs room bar was taking shape; soft planting was being positioned

Big Chill House

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► into the re-decked rooftop terrace; soft, sunset orange velvet curtains were being hung at the groundfloor windows; light boxes, photography and striking artwork was ready to be lifted into position. Finishing touches - of which there were many in this beautifully conceived project - were about to bring the concept to life.

That concept is even more closely aligned to the festival than the bar before it. Like its predecessor, the House is accessible, warm and designed to encourage sociability, but thanks to the multi-faceted space, Katrina has been able to draw closer connections to the Eastnor event and thus each room now represents a different element of the festival; the Love Inn, Naxos Nook, the Enchanted Bar, Lulworth Lounge, the list goes on...

Recreating the festival vibe was essential to the design, explains Katrina. "The point of creating the Bar and now the House is as a physical manifestation of the Big Chill which goes beyond the festival," she says. "But that's particularly important given where the House is situated. Kings Cross is characterised by greys and browns, and within that we wanted the colour and vibrancy and warmth of the House to feel like a real oasis."

The venue has taken months to come together in part because the project evolved as the fabric of the building was revealed and opportunities became apparent, but also because each element of the venue has been so thoroughly considered.

"We've spent eight months scouring auction houses for furniture, buying each piece individually," smiles Katrina, who despite drafting in friends to help with the search has spent much of the last few months shopping for pieces to fit. "We didn't want it looking pristine, like a chain bar," she explains.

As well as the design scheme, the House's sound system has also been well considered - as you'd expect from an organisation founded in a love of music and intent on quality control.

Co-designed by Funktion One dealers Production Hire and installation company Marquee Audio in consultation with Katrina and project manager Andrew Palmer from the Department of Design, the reconfigurable RES 4/F-218 groundfloor system had become a favourite of Pete Lawrence through DJing at Cielo in New York.

With an eclectic mix of music programmed (including a live performance from Bent and DJ sets from Pete Lawrence and Michael Cook in the first week), the venue required a system flexible enough to accommodate live and club requirements.

The team adopted Funktion One's recommended signal chain of Full Fat Audio amplification, alongside a BSS Audio Cobranet- ►

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

BIG CHILL HOUSE - SOUND

FOH PA: 2 x Funktion One 01 Controller; 2 x Funktion One Res 4 Mid High Loud Speaker Skeletal; 2 x Funktion One Res218 Twin 18" Bass; Peripheral Speakers: 4 x Funktion One F88 2 x 8" Loudspeaker; 2 x Funktion One Mini Bass 2 x 12" Sub Cabinet; Peripheral Speakers Basement: 2 x Funktion One F88 2 x 8" Loudspeaker; Control Equipment: 1 x BSS BLU-80 8x8 Soundweb London Processor 8 In 8 Out; 1 x BSS BLU-32 Soundweb London I/O Only; 2 x BSS BLU-10 Remote Control Panel; 2 x BSS BLU-10 PSU Power Supply for Remote; 5 x BSS BLU-3 Simple Remote Control 5 Way Switch; 1 ES-29417627 27u Mesh Door; 1 ES-29418304 Swing Lock for Mesh Door; 1 ES-6450061 Set of 4 Castors; 3 ES-7880551 PDU 6 Way Horizontal; 1 ES-2946427 600 x 800 Equipment Rack; 1 ES-4971020 600 x 800 Fan Assembly; Amplifiers: 1 x EMO Systems CM6 (CAN42-661) CM6 Master Switcher; 1 x Full Fat Audio FFA6000 2 x 1800w 4 Ohm; 7 x Full Fat Audio FFA3600 2 x 1250w 4 Ohm; 1 x Full Fat Audio FFA2000 2 x 650w 4 Ohm; Floor Monitor Equipment: 2 x Turbosound TXD-15M Floor Monitor; 1 x Yamaha P7000s 950W; 4 ohm 650W 8 ohm Amplifier Monitor; 1 x Multicore Cable; FOH Mixer - Outboard: 1 x Yamaha SPX2000 Multi Effects Processor; 1 x EMO Systems CM6 (CAN42-661) CM6 Master Switcher; 1 x Klark Teknik SQ1D Square One 8ch Dynamics; 2 x Klark Teknik SQ1G Square One Graphic EQ; 1 x Soundcraft GB4-24 24ch 4 Bus Mixing Console; Microphones and Stands: 3 x Shure SM58-LC Cardioid Pattern Microphone; 2 x Shure SM57-LC Cardioid Pattern Microphone; 2 x AKG C391B SE300B + CK91 Combination; 5 x Beyerdynamic GST500 Tall Boom Mic Stand; 3 x Beyerdynamic GST590 Short Boom Mic Stand; 4 x BSS AR-133 Active DI Box; 1 x AKG D112 Kick / Bass Microphone; 1st Floor Bar: 1 x Funktion One Mini Bass 2 x 12" Sub Cabinet; 2 x Funktion One Res 1 12" + 5" Speaker