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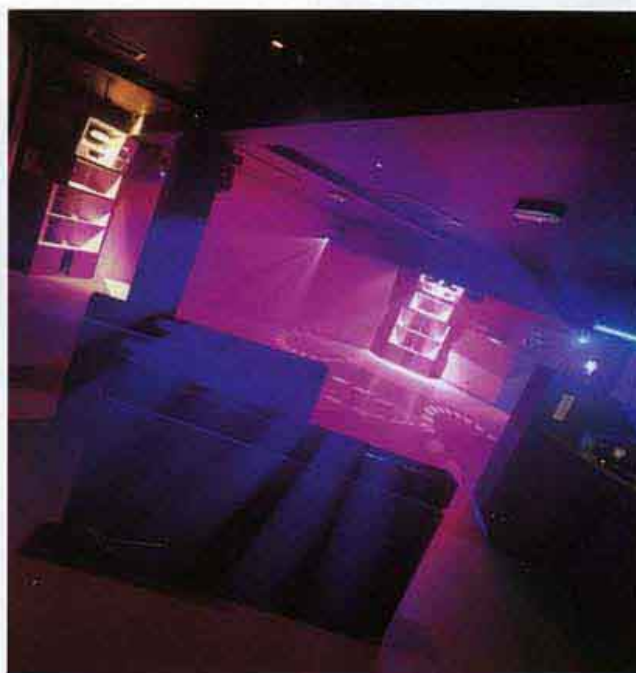
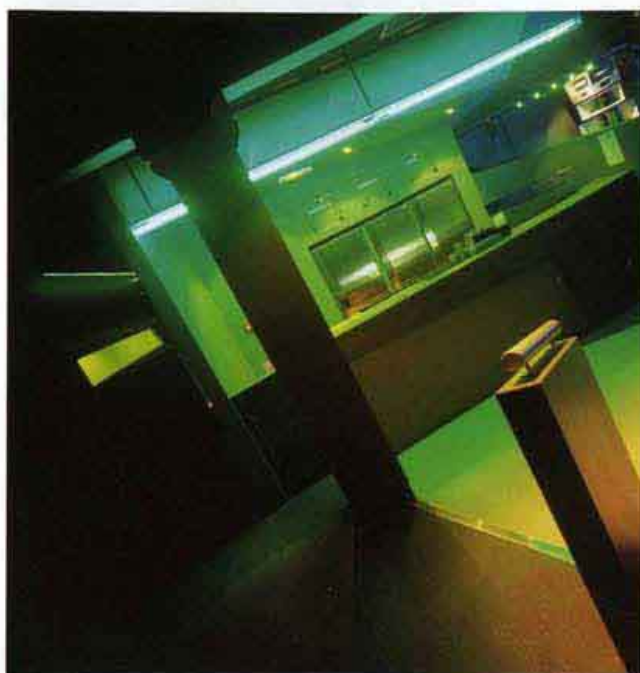
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stealth nottingham

Stealth - Nottingham

Mondo SEPT 2004

Page 2 of 4



Stealth in Nottingham continues the long line of groundbreaking dance venues to have emerged from the UK's late night scene over the past decade and beyond. The venue itself is a product of the fusion between two of the city's most accomplished operators: George Atkins - Director of Daybrook House Promotions, operator of Rock City, and purveyor of quality, live music venues; and James Baillie - named the fifth most influential man in music by the NME in 1999 and synonymous with Nottingham institutions The Social and The Bomb.

"I've known George for years, and I think it was inevitable that we were going to do something together," James reflects; George agrees: "James had moved on from the Bomb and had some great ideas. It seemed obvious once we started talking that we were going to do Stealth - I think it took about an hour to decide that it was going to happen."

The difference with Stealth is evident in every aspect of the operation, combining confidence, intelligence, real investment, and a music policy that pre-dates the superclub with its forward thinking philosophy.

The confidence originates, in part, from a proficient knowledge of the market in Nottingham.

"Something like this hasn't been done for a long time," explains George. "The Bomb opened six years ago, and Media and Mode are a lot more mainstream than

us." Moreover, as James identifies, the scene in the whole of the North of England required some kind of change.

"In the mid 90s everything was happening up north - from Cream, to Basics, The Bomb and Gatecrasher; now the roles have reversed - you only have to look at Fabric, The Cock, Nag Nag Nag and The End to see that London has taken over the scene."

Stealth is very different in design and takes shape within two similar sized rooms that are spread across two floors to create a capacity of 660.

"So often you go to dance clubs and there's a room one with all the big acts on, and room two is a bit of an afterthought," explains Stealth's Will Harold. "At Stealth both rooms are a fairly equal size. We want them to be equally strong in their own right, so that customers coming down to the club go to both rooms instead of all cramming into one."

"We feel that design-wise Stealth is almost like a mini Hacienda," admits George. "It was accidental - the pillars were added because we needed extra support."

The brief given to the venue's interior designers asked for a blank canvas - a space where lighting and visuals could be manipulated. Practicality was also taken into consideration, with the addition of a corridor between two staircases that provides access between the floors, and takes the main thoroughfare away from the dancefloor area.

The investment in design has been matched with dedication to technology all of which has been built around Stealth's music policy.

"I've structured the music policy in the same way as the Hacienda," James explains, warmly conveying the love that was injected into this task. "In the '80s and '90s, the Hacienda was doing a lot of guitar bands in the week and at the weekend played acid house."

As Will observes: "Not that many people do 'live' because it requires extra work to bring in," but this is one of the features that make Stealth so unique.

The sound system at Stealth illustrates a dedication to music and has been designed by David Kelland from Kelco UK Ltd. "We are part of the Funktion One family," explains David. "In order to be a part you have to have a passion - the guys down there are incredible, and with their attention to detail, producing equipment of that quality, it's difficult not to."

James and Will determined on a Funktion One system: "It's an amazing system. We specified the Dance Stack for the upstairs room - there's only four in the world. The clarity is crystal clear, even at the bottom end. Systems usually only go down to 40 and then they start distorting, this goes down to 20 so you can't actually hear the infra-bass, you can just feel it."

Such was their resolve that George was convinced to install the system; James laughs: "George actually

said 'James was adamant about this system - he was throwing his balls out of the pram! But I'm glad we went with it because it is such a talking point.'"

Explains David: "James and Will had seen the Dance Stack, and what first appealed to them was the visual statement it made - it looks awesome. But I think once they heard it they became involved. That's the one part they specified - we designed the rest of the system around it."

"It was a fairly easy job for me. When you start off with a loud speaker as good as the Dance Stack you want everything to be as good down the chain. We listen to a lot of stuff all the time - the MC2 E series amplifiers are tremendous; they're British made, and they make the sound jump out of the boxes. Because the processing is by amplifier it sounds great, and with no user controls is a pretty safe bet for a nightclub of any description."

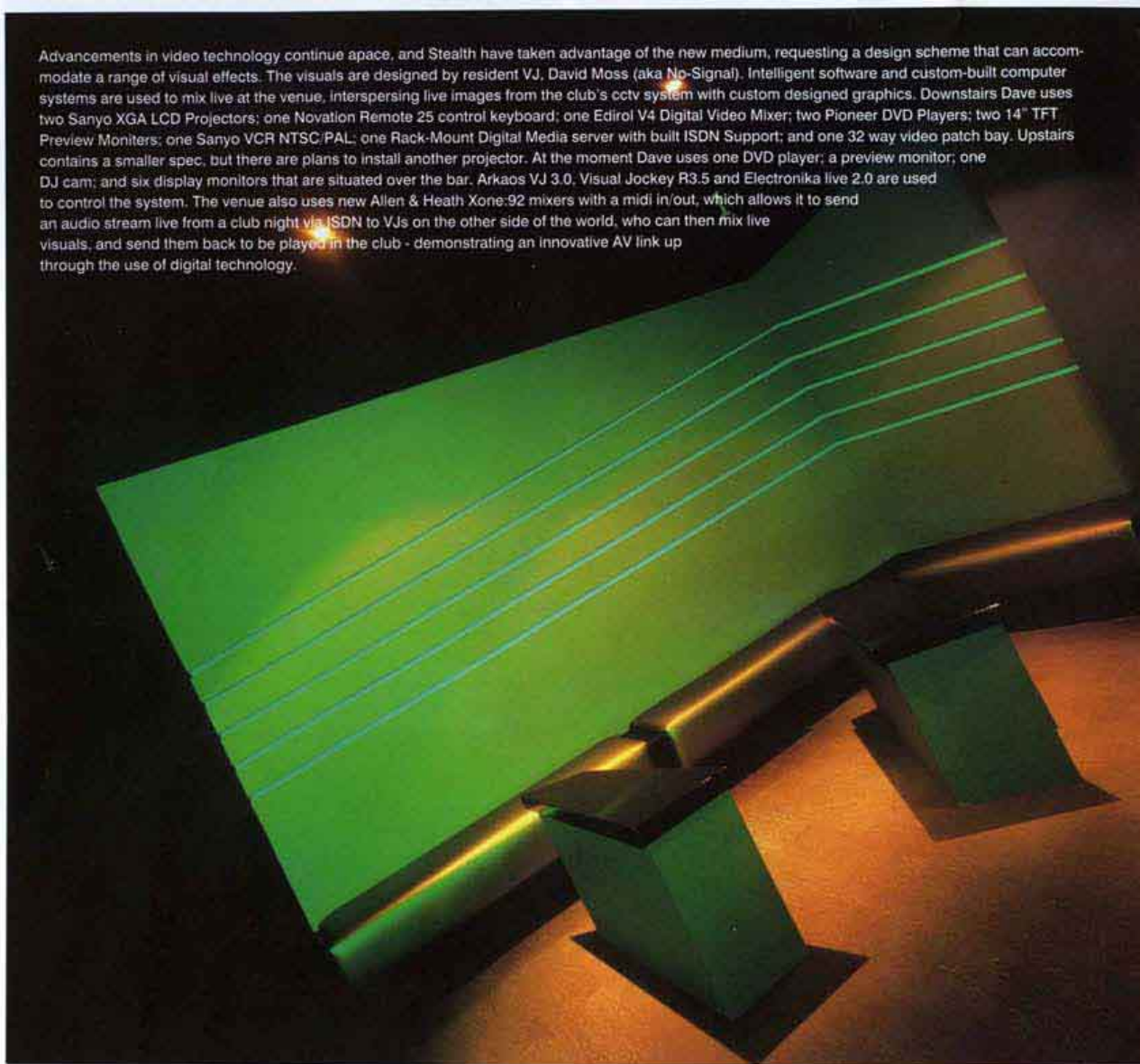
Downstairs David installed a smaller, but nonetheless impressive system, which will allow for live bands to use the space.

"We started off with a bit of a smaller system, and decided we wanted to give a little bit more, so we fixed up with the Resolution 2. The downstairs system works in two different positions, so we had to lay in a second network of cables to give the opportunity to move the stacks. And it's a stackable system rather than a standing or installed system so we consulted about



mondo'dr sept/oct 2004
venue

Advancements in video technology continue apace, and Stealth have taken advantage of the new medium, requesting a design scheme that can accommodate a range of visual effects. The visuals are designed by resident VJ, David Moss (aka No-Signal). Intelligent software and custom-built computer systems are used to mix live at the venue, interspersing live images from the club's CCTV system with custom designed graphics. Downstairs Dave uses two Sanyo XGA LCD Projectors; one Novation Remote 25 control keyboard; one Edirol V4 Digital Video Mixer; two Pioneer DVD Players; two 14" TFT Preview Monitors; one Sanyo VCR NTSC/PAL; one Rack-Mount Digital Media server with built ISDN Support; and one 32 way video patch bay. Upstairs contains a smaller spec, but there are plans to install another projector. At the moment Dave uses one DVD player; a preview monitor; one DJ cam; and six display monitors that are situated over the bar. Arkaos VJ 3.0, Visual Jockey R3.5 and Electronika live 2.0 are used to control the system. The venue also uses new Allen & Heath Xone:92 mixers with a midi in/out, which allows it to send an audio stream live from a club night via ISDN to VJs on the other side of the world, who can then mix live visuals, and send them back to be played in the club - demonstrating an innovative AV link up through the use of digital technology.



the dependence on their needs for the night."

The team encountered one problem when installing the Dance Stacks, David recalls: "The Dance Stacks were about 2 inches too tall for the room, so Will made me cut it down! We chopped down the top mounting bracket, and it squeezed in by a hair. It was a tense few moments."

And the biggest endorsement for the speaker? Asking Will whether the floor or the speaker would have been the first to go: "We would have moved the floor. Everyone we spoke to - whether they were involved in the field, a DJ or live act - all said, for what we wanted to do, that's the system we wanted. With

music being so important for us, it is important to have the right system.

We're really, really happy. The reaction from the crowd, and the amount of people who are talking about it, more than justifies the cost. Because if people are talking about the system, they're talking about us."

Kelco have also recently taken on the distribution of EM Acoustics, and used their monitor loudspeakers within the DJ booth. This is the first club installation to feature EM Acoustics' products, and will see the brand expanding from the conferencing and theatre market.

Lighting at Stealth was designed and installed by Rob Davies at Colour Sound Experiment, who won

the contract after submitting ideas based around Stealth's budget. Colour Sound Experiment are best known for their work on the live circuit, and have recently completed an installation on Shepherd's Bush Green. The full specification includes 16 Martin Professional MAC 250+ moving heads - chosen because "they are a reliable product, and the right size of moving head to fit the space and low ceilings." These are complemented by four Martin Atomic Strobes, regularly used by Colour Sound Experiment not only for their reliability, but also because they have a dimmer facility that makes them more versatile.

Rob also installed 24 Pulsar Chroma Domes, explaining:

"George was interested in the LED technology that has been developed, and the energy and money saving advantages that could be brought to the unit. We were keen to use the Chroma Domes because they are simple, work well, and offer low power consumption." These products are distributed equally between the two rooms, with both rigs designed over the main dance-floor areas, to provide colour, shape and interest.

"One of the design points was to make the two rigs identical, but alter the programming to suit the different styles of music on offer on each room," continues Rob. "We took a logical approach - downstairs at Stealth caters for the majori- ☺



mondo*dr sept/oct 2004
venue



technical information

LIGHT/VIDEO

16 Martin Mac 250+; 4 x Martin Atomic strobe; 24 x Pulsar Chroma Dome; 2 x Pulsar Chroma Zone; 2 x Light Processor extended lighting desk; 2 x Jem ZR12 smoke machine; 12 x Par 64 Parcan; 1 x Strand dimmer; 2 x Sanyo XGA LCD Projector; 1 x Novation Remote 25 control keyboard; 1 x Edirol V4 Digital Video Mixer; 2 x Pioneer DVD Player, Multi-Region/Multi-format; 2 x 14" TFT Preview Monitor; 1 x Sanyo VCR NTSC/PAL; 1 x Rack-Mount Digital Media server with built ISDN Support; 1 x 32 way video patch bay; Software: Arkaos VJ 3.0; Visual Jockey R3.5; Elektronika live 2.0

SOUND

First Floor: 1 x Bi-Amp Audia-Flex; 1 x Bi-Amp Audia-Logic Box; 2 x MC2 E-15 Amplifier (New Range); 3 x MC2 E-25 Amplifier (New Range); 3 x MC2 T2000 Amplifier; 1 x MC2 T1000 Amplifier; 2 x Funktion-One Dance Stack; 4 x EM Acoustic EMS-81 VIP Area Speaker; 2 x EM Acoustics EMS-121 DJ Monitor; 1 x Allen & Heath Xone:92 DJ mixer; 1 x Custom Rack
Ground Floor: 1 x Bi-Amp Audia-Solo; 1 x Bi-Amp Audia-Logic Box; 2 x MC2 E-15 Amplifier; 3 x MC2 E-25 Amplifier; 1 x MC2 T2000 Amplifier; 4 x Funktion-One Resolution 4; 4 x Funktion-One F218 Bass Bin; 2 x EM Acoustics EMS-121 DJ Monitor; 1 x Allen & Heath Xone:92 DJ mixer; 1 x Custom Rack; 24 x pair multicore & stage box with custom patch panel

links: www.stealthattack.co.uk



ty of the live bands, but George and James also wanted the versatility to be able to host PAs upstairs. Rather than purchasing two parcan rigs, we have used parcans and a dimmer downstairs that can be moved upstairs, which is already cabled to accommodate the move."

Both areas are controlled by Light Processor extended lighting desks, which, Rob admits, he hasn't used before: "We installed this desk after a recommendation from a house technician. The desk suited the application because it is cost effective and simple to use." Also installed are two Jem ZR12 smoke machines, 12 Par 64 Parcans and a Strand dimmer.

FRANÇAIS

Basée à Nottingham, Stealth rallonge la longue liste de discothèques révolutionnaires conçus ces dix dernières années pour assouvir les envies des noctambules du Royaume-Uni. En elle-même, cette discothèque est une toile vierge sur laquelle l'éclairage et les effets visuels peuvent être manipulés et où les manifestations d'un intérêt débordant pour la technologie ont été déclenchées sur les bases d'une politique musicale particulière. James Baillie, co-propriétaire du lieu s'étant décidé pour un système Funktion One : "ce système est tout bonnement étonnant. Nous avons choisi le Dance Stack pour la salle du haut - il n'en existe que quatre dans le monde entier. Le rendu est clair comme du cristal, même au bas du spectre. Les caissons ne vont habituellement que jusqu'à 40 hertz, puis des distorsions se manifestent. Ce système va jusqu'à 20 et à ce niveau-là, on entend même pas les infrabasses, on les vit."

David Kelland prend la parole pour l'installateur du système, Kelco : "ma tâche était relativement simple. Quand on commence avec une enceinte aussi performante que le Dance Stack, on a à cœur que tout baigne d'un bout de la chaîne à l'autre. Les amplificateurs série E MC2 sont sensationnels ; on a l'impression que le son est littéralement projeté des enceintes."

DEUTSCH

Das Stealth in Nottingham ist das neueste in einer langen Reihe bahnbrechender Dance-Venues, die in den letzten zehn Jahren in der britischen Nachtclub-Szene aufgetaucht sind. Der Club selbst bildet eine Art leere Leinwand, die durch Beleuchtungen und visuelle Elemente gestaltet werden kann. Die große Bedeutung, die der Technologie beigemessen wird, kommt vor allem im speziell konzipierten Soundsystem des Clubs zum Ausdruck. Für Mitbesitzer James Baillie durfte es nur ein System von Funktion One sein: "Das System ist fantastisch. Für den oberen Raum wollten wir ein Dance Stack - davon gibt es auf der ganzen Welt nur vier Stück. Der Sound kommt kristallklar rüber, sogar im Bassbereich. Ab 40 langt bei den meisten Systemen die Verzerrung an, das Dance Stack geht aber bis auf 20, so dass man die Infrabässe nicht hört, sondern nur spürt." „Es war nicht allzu schwierig“, stellt David Kelland von der Installationsfirma Kelco fest. „Wenn man mit einem so fantastischen Lautsprechersystem wie dem Dance Stack anfängt, dann will man, dass der Rest genauso gut ist. Die Verstärker der E-Serie von MC2 sind ausgezeichnet - der Sound springt förmlich aus den Boxen.“

ITALIANO

Lo Stealth di Nottingham si aggiunge alla lunga serie degli innovativi locali da ballo apparsi sulla scena delle notti britanniche in questi ultimi dieci anni. Una tela bianca su cui giocano luci e immagini, il club si distingue per la tecnologia costruita attorno a un approccio specializzato alla musica. Il co-proprietary del locale, James Baillie, non ha dubbi sul sistema Funktion One: "È un sistema incredibile. Per la sala al primo piano abbiamo scelto Dance Stack... ne esistono solo quattro al mondo. La nitidezza è cristallina, anche alle frequenze più basse. Di solito un impianto arriva fino a 40 e poi il suono comincia a distorcere; Funktion One invece è in grado di scendere fino a 20, ma gli infrabassi non si sentono, si percepiscono e basta", David Kelland, degli installatori Kelco, aggiunge: "Non è stato un lavoro difficile... d'altra parte, quando si inizia da un altoparlante della qualità di Dance Stack bisogna continuare con tutto il sistema. Gli amplificatori della serie MC2 E sono incredibili... sembra che il suono schizzi fuori dalle casse!"

ESPAÑOL

Stealth, en Nottingham, continúa en su larga línea de innovadores locales de baile que han emergido en los escenarios de las madrugada del RU durante la última década. El club mismo es una tela lisa en la que la iluminación y las imágenes pueden manipularse y donde se ha creado una dedicación a la tecnología alrededor de una política especializada en música. El copropietario del lugar, James Baillie, estaba decidido por un sistema Funktion One: "Es un sistema sorprendente. Especificamos el Dance Stack para la sala del piso superior - sólo hay cuatro en todo el mundo. La claridad es cristalina, incluso en los bajos más bajos. Los sistemas normalmente llegan a 40 y empiezan a distorsionar, este baja hasta 20 de manera que no puedes oír realmente los infrabajos, simplemente los sientes."

"Para mí fue un trabajo muy fácil," continúa David Kelland de los instaladores Kelco. "Cuando empiezas con un altavoz tan bueno como el Dance Stack quieres que todo el resto de la cadena sea igualmente bueno. Los amplificadores de la serie MC2 E son espectaculares, hacen que el sonido salte de las cajas acústicas."