

# bbox clermont ferrand

It's hard to express the sheer scale and ambitiousness of the Bbox project. The venue has been designed from the ground up to be a technical marvel on every level.

Firstly the project breaks all the rules, the 3400 capacity club is conceived around a single dance floor and thus a single DJ. This configuration is probably unseen outside of Ibiza and most unlikely to be found in the French town of Clermont-Ferrand. But much thought has gone into the viability of the development. The transport network in the region has improved hugely in recent years and, as the club is located right next to an autoroute exit maximum accessibility is assured.

Gerard Giraudon from Color-Sonic was contacted at an early date to consult on the sound and lighting and his advice and guidance through the conceptual stages led to a rebalancing of the investments with more attention paid in areas often skimmed over in other projects. A packed lighting rig of Robe 250XT scanners and Genie Mos 700 luminaires was selected - fixed onto rings of Eurotruss trussing.

One major attribute is the quality of the acoustical treatment and sound proofing both inside and out. Beyond simply keeping the noise emergence to a minimum, the 180ft in diameter and 40ft high cylinder became an acoustically neutral working environment - creating a great starting point for the installation which was to follow.

Gerard specified Funktion One for the club following recommendations from members of the DJ-ing community and after using the system very conclusively in some test events. The Bbox brief was not lengthy, "it has to sound great everywhere". The specification adventure started and evolved in parallel with the study of the interior mechanics of the venue, how would people move around the venue? How should the space be divided? Ultimately some changes were



All pics: Anouck POISSON

made and a new position was found for the DJ to give him more creature comforts and space to hang out. It was decided to hang the dance stacks in order to max-

Top: Acting as a VIP when the whole of the club is open, the upstairs area can operate as a "small" 500 person capacity club on its own for midweek lower profile events. Above: The main dance area featuring a host of Robe 250XT Scanners controlled by a Sunlite software package



### Optimise the coverage over the 20m

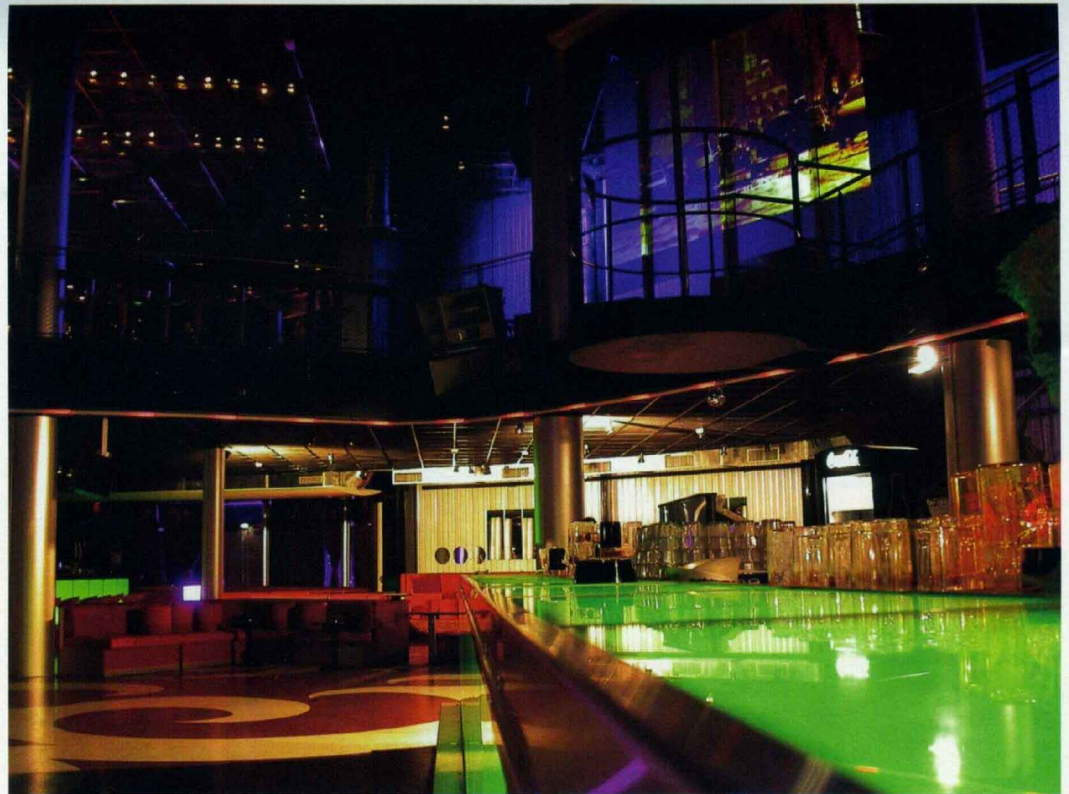
optimise the coverage over the 20m x 20m dance floor. The four points could not be hung symmetrically so the DJ end points are flown high over the balcony level and rain down on the crowd where the back stacks skim over the head height. As a starting configuration the Infrabass normally found in a Dance stack were replaced by a third F218.

An outer perimeter is covered by a total of 14 F88s. The very wide dispersion on the F88's mean that a surprisingly small number of units give seamless coverage over the large expanses of balconies and lounge areas. The units are conceived for intelligibility rather than dynamics, they are individually time aligned for precise coupling with the bass that rolls in from the dance floor with a spine tingling results, in the peripheral areas groups can comfortably talk while not feeling separated from the dance floor action. The sound in the downstairs VIP delivered by two F88 has to be an industry reference!

Clubs in France like to break the rules and one of the phenomena that you don't see elsewhere are bars on the Dance floor. To make this manageable the rear DS210 and DS15s are focused so that the edge of the Mid-Hi coverage runs along an axis a foot from the front of the bar allowing effortless drink ordering and exceptional bar-staff comfort. Under the balcony Res2s combined with Res25H's to act as fills for another bar slightly offset from the dance floor (but with backlit LED panel-steps that allow the public to dance on the bartop). On the balcony is a mini dance floor that is covered by 2 AX88's and two F218's

Up stairs is located the club-within-a-club, acting as a VIP when the whole of the club is open it can operate as a "small" 500 person capacity club on its own for midweek lower profile events. The small club system composed of Res2s and Infrabass is focused around a dance floor that's in the middle of a panoramic view across the town towards the Puy-du-Dome volcano.

The club has opened to rave reviews with a massive opening weekend that was highlighted by



David Guetta's appearance and 5 hour mix. Interviewed on France 3's regional television news David was asked how he felt about coming to Bbox. He replied: "It's simple, I'm like a kid with a new toy because I know that tonight I'm going to mix on the ultimate sound system."



### technical information

SOUND: Funktion-One Res2; Funktion-One F218; Funktion-One F88; Funktion-One DS210; Funktion-One DS15; Funktion-One AX88

LIGHTING: Robe 250XT series; Jem ZR33; Genie Mos 700; Sunlite 2003 software

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