



MANSION / PLAYGROUND



PACEVILLE, MALTA
EUROPE/MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA

From the early Sicilian inhabitants to the British rule and independence in 1964, the Maltese culture has been shaped by a fusion of influences. Today's Malta is decorated with striking symbols of its past and is brimming with life and character.

Its landscape is decorated with juxtaposed architecture; mysterious remains and megalithic temples of prehistoric ages sit next to military buildings and fortifications erected by Knights of the Order of Saint John. The contrast of styles can be stark, particularly in St

Julian's Bay, where old and new smack together in an area known as Paceville.

Paceville's name, if not deliberate, is certainly fitting. It is packed with a dense community of bars, clubs and restaurants; the energy is high and the scene moves quickly. On the main stretch - St George's Road - venues are stacked. The sky is lit up with a bewildering procession of signs and the street is busy with fun-seekers - locals and tourists alike.

As you move towards Dragonara Road, visual calm is restored rather quickly. The creams and browns of the residential and hotel architecture are interrupted less often, but that doesn't mean the street is any less alive. For here you will find Mansion and Playground - two of Paceville's most underground venues.



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SINCE GAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1964 MALTA HAS UNDERGONE SOME SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WITH THE AREA OF PACEVILLE SEEING AN INJECTION OF NIGHTLIFE AMENITIES. MANSION AND PLAYGROUND - TWO OF THE DISTRICT'S MOST UNDERGROUND VENUES - ARE RECENT ADDITIONS.

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MANSION

The first thing that strikes you when you set foot into Mansion is the size of the place. It's a huge space, capable of hosting around 3,000 people. The second thing is the abundance of technology.

Smoke billows from six Robe Fog 1500 FTs; gusts of wind from the huge air conditioning ducts dissipate it, pushing it around the room. Above, a huge rig of lighting fixtures dance to the tune of the club's lighting jockey. And at the front of the room, the unmistakable sight of Funktion-One Resolution Series loudspeakers squaring up to the expansive space.

Our guide is Stefan Farrugia - owner of installation specialist Futuretech. The company has been in business since 1997, when Stefan's mobile DJ business outgrew itself and Futuretech started to be

recognised by manufacturers as a reliable distributor and partner. It's a reputation that has grown with the years, thanks in no small part to Stefan and his team's commitment to providing exceptional aftersales service.

Futuretech commands a very strong position in the Maltese entertainment technology market. The company is responsible for a sizeable chunk of the sound, lighting and AV installations on the island - a feat that has been supported by the range of brands that it represents. It includes: Allen & Heath, American Audio, America DJ, Antari, Control4, D.A.S Audio, dBTechnologies, Denon DJ, Denon Professional, Drawmer, Ecler, Elation, Funktion-One, LD Systems, Focal Professional, Marantz Professional, Powersoft and XTA.

"I have a rental company called Fusion Sound Limited," explained ►



Stefan. "But my core business is installation - we're responsible for nearly 100 installations in Malta and Gozo."

At Mansion, Futuretech supplied and installed the entire audio infrastructure - including loudspeakers, amplifiers and DJ equipment. Six Funktion-One Resolution 5 loudspeakers - three on either side - and eight Funktion-One F121 subwoofers fill the room with an unmistakable quality of sound.

The Resolution 5 is a high-intensity, three-way, mid-high loudspeaker. Its highly controlled and focused dispersion enables precise tailoring of overall system coverage - which ensures audio fidelity across Mansion's sizeable footprint. Unwanted room reflections are substantially reduced, maintaining a high degree of intelligibility.

Combined with the eight F121 bass enclosures, the system offers formidable performance. The F121s, with their single 21-inch drivers, supply fast, accurate and clean bass frequencies - 20Hz to 125Hz. The Resolution 5's 12-inch driver delivers frequencies of 125Hz to 445Hz. Its unique mid-range axhead loading device not only gives fantastic efficiency and dispersion control, but also increases high frequency output from the 8-inch cone driver. This means that the crossover point to the compression driver can be raised to around 6kHz for dramatically reduced distortion. Two 1-inch drivers produce frequencies over 6kHz.

Amplification for the system comes from premium-performance Funktion-One amplifiers. Due to the efficiency of the speakers, only three amps are needed to power the entire system. A Funktion-One E90 on the subwoofers, a Funktion-One E45 powering the Res 5s' 12-inch driver and a Funktion-One E100 for the Res 5s' 8-inch and 1-inch drivers.

The E-Series range of lightweight, switch-mode power amplifiers, which offer ultra-high fidelity performance, are preferred by Funktion-One because of their reliability and sonic performance. The same can be said for the XTA DP448 that manages the signal processing.

Futuretech has been working with Funktion-One for nearly five years, but the dialogue with the British manufacturer started some time before. "We were talking to Funktion-One two years before we started," revealed Stefan. "Our first big gig was Underworld, which John Newsham came out for. Funktion-One was specified on Underworld's technical rider. That was when the people heard it - they were blown away. Once you've heard Funktion-One your expectations of sound quality go up and stay up."

The DJ booth, situated in the centre of the raised stage, has two Pioneer CDJ-2000 DJ decks connected to an Allen & Heath Xone:92

DJ mixer. Two active Funktion-One Resolution 2 loudspeakers are used as monitors.

Since it was introduced in late-2009, the CDJ-2000 has established itself as the standard piece of kit on DJ tech riders the world over. And with its involving sound, Allen & Heath's Xone:92 can make a similar claim. The Xone:92 was one of the first professional DJ mixers to incorporate MIDI for control of DJ software or external devices, and the first to include the innovative dual VCF filters.

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Discussing the audio set-up at Mansion, Stefan recalled: "After we put the sound system in, we let people hear it for the first time and they knew straightaway - it's exactly what they wanted."

With a hotel situated above the club, Futuretech has taken measures to ensure that overall sound levels can be set at an appropriate limit. An Apex SL-Series sound levelling system has been installed. It is made up of the Apex Hera sound level meter, which takes readings from a mic hanging in the centre of the room. It works with the Apex Argos sound leveller, which controls the levels while preserving the whole audio signal quality and the entire dynamic range.

Mansion's commitment to high-performance technology remains prevalent throughout the lighting and AV spec. The roof is spanned by three hexagonal steel truss structures, each one measuring eight metres in diameter. They support an array of Robe, Hungaroflash ▶



and Kvant lighting and effects units.

A total of 54 Robe fixtures have been specified, including 24 Robe ColorSpot 1200E AT moving heads. The fixture uses a powerful Philips 1200 SA discharge lamp light source, which is further boosted by a high quality, super-efficient optical system, making it one of the brightest moving fixtures on the market. Major features include a versatile CMY colour mixing system, variable CTO plus an additional colour wheel, 12 rotating indexable, replaceable dichroic glass gobos on two wheels offering 48 gobo combinations, iris, four rotating prisms and effects, variable frost, an incredibly flexible 13° - 42° linear zoom, remote focus, dimmer and shutter.

The lighting spec also includes 24 Robe Scan 575 XTs, which offer high light output thanks to a 575W lamp and specially engineered optics. Features include two combinable gobo wheels - one offering static gobos and one with rotating gobos - remote focus, iris, rotating prism, frost filter and both CTO and CTB correction filters.

Hungaroflash EuroDMX PRO strobes - 10 in total, a Kvant full-colour 5W laser system and six Robe Fog 1500 FT fog machines complete the line-up of lighting effects.

Lighting control is handled by an Avolites Pearl 2008 console. The Pearl 2008 combines compact dimensions with plenty of power, offering full moving light control for up to 240 intelligent fixtures.

It is designed for quick and easy programming and playback, and straightforward patching of moving lights and colour changers.

Mansion's LJ, Andrew Zammit, said: "The Robe fixtures are flexible to work with - they cater for the various styles that different club nights demand. I love the gobos - they are a renowned part of the Robe family - and the CMY mixing capabilities too.

"The Avolites Pearl 2008 allows me to do last-minute programming - it's really good for that. It's really enjoyable to work on."

The screen behind the stage was sourced and imported by the owners. It is made from 5mm LEDs, which are diffused by a plastic casing. It measures five metres by two metres and totals 1,000 pixels. The thought and investment that has gone into the technology infrastructure at Mansion is at the heart of its operational success. It has attracted international promoters, like Sean Sammut (The Element) and Carl Farrugia (Audiofreak), who present 'Cosa Nostra' every Sunday night during the winter season to a crowd that typically exceeds 1,500 people. Like many DJs and promoters internationally, they demand a Funktion-One sound system and a visual show that matches their ambitions. In Mansion, they have both. ▶

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SOUND

6 x Funktion-One Resolution 5 loudspeaker; 8 x Funktion-One F121 subwoofer; 2 x Funktion-One Resolution 2 loudspeaker; 1 x Funktion-One E100 amplifier; 1 x Funktion-One E45 amplifier; 1 x Funktion-One E90 amplifier; 1 x XTA DP448 processor; 1 x Allen & Heath Xone:92 mixer; 2 x Pioneer CDJ-2000 DJ deck

LIGHTING & VISUAL

24 x Robe ColorSpot 1200E AT moving head; 24 x Robe Scan 575 XT scanner; 6 x Robe Fog 1500 FT fog machine; 10 x Hungaroflash EuroDMX PRO strobe; 1 x Kvant full colour 5W laser system; 1 x Avolites Pearl 2008 lighting console; 10 x Samsung LCD TV; 1 x Kramer video switcher

www.facebook.com/ClubMansionMalta

DS8000 Audio Distribution System

www.xta.co.uk



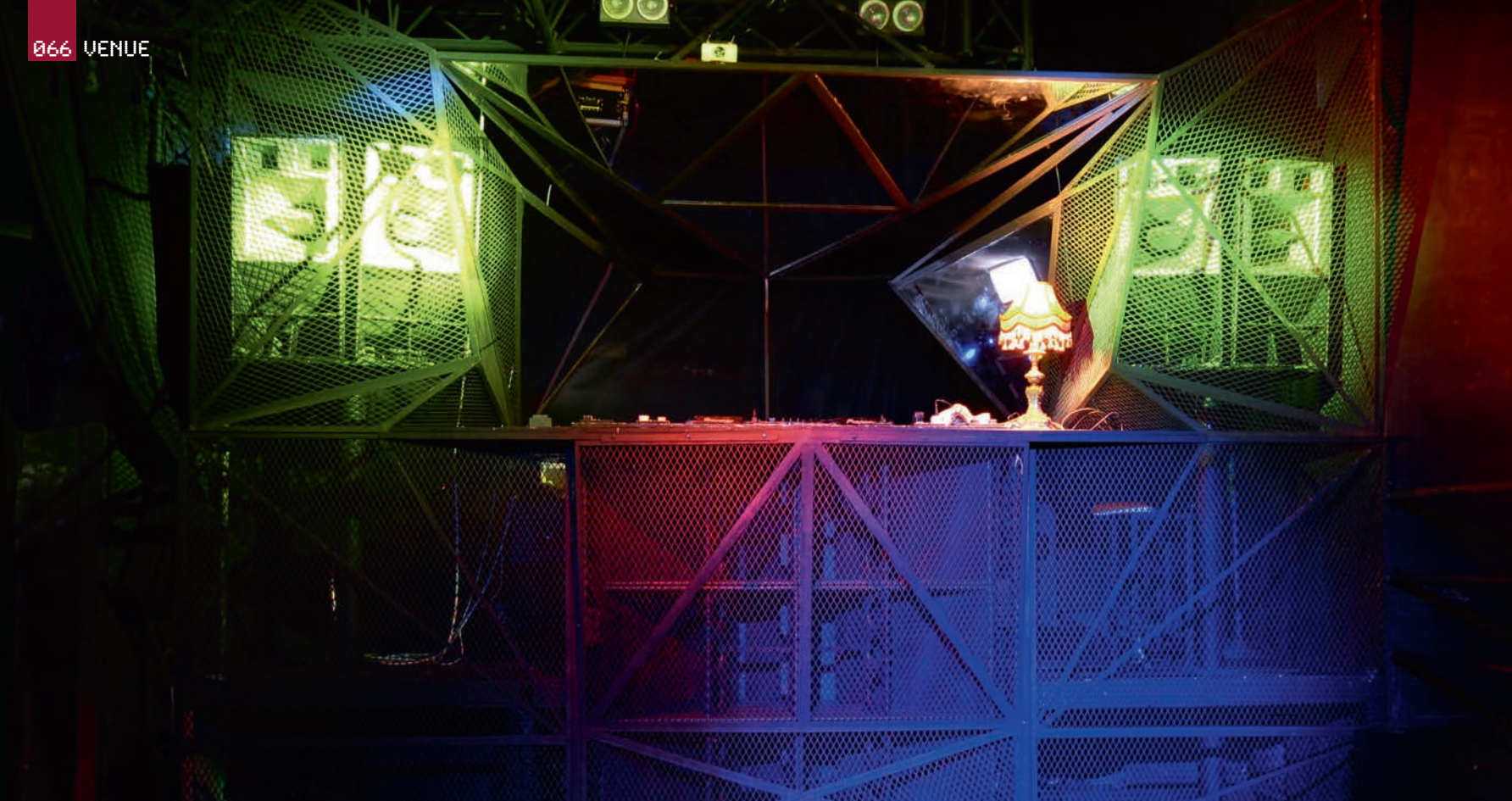
NEW - Now with Digital Output Option - 2 x 8 AES Outputs at up to 192k with Word Clock I/O

DS8000. All new. Well, almost.

Some things you just can't change, but everything else? No problem. Re-engineered from the ground-up based on your feedback about the best-selling DS800, the DS8000 sets a new standard in audio distribution systems. With an all new mic pre-amp, redundant power supply linking, quick one-to-many splitting, subtle panel illumination and an AES digital output option, the DS8000 offers incredible performance and the highest reliability in all conditions. And it's still blue.



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PLAYGROUND

Playground and Mansion reside under one roof but operate as independent venues. Their styles are similar - the emphasis being on the right technology, rather than lavish décor - but each has a unique atmosphere.


With a capacity of approximately 600 people, Playground is much smaller than Mansion, but it still packs a hefty technological punch. Four Funktion-One Resolution 5 loudspeakers - two left and two right - deliver sound to the space. They form part of a DJ cage, which gives the room a particularly underground feel. At the base of the cage, underneath the DJ position, six Funktion-One F121 subwoofers punch out powerful bass frequencies.

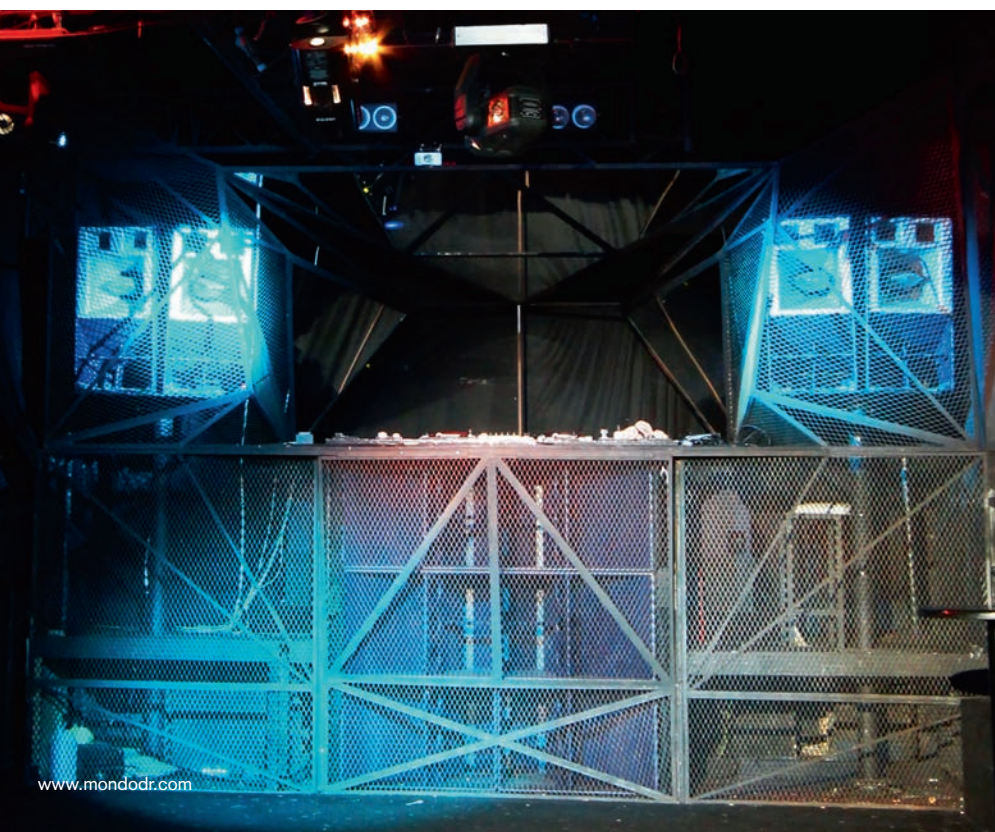
A Funktion-One E45 amplifier powers the 1-inch drivers on the Res 5's, another E45 feeds the 8-inch drivers and a third E45 delivers power to the 12-inch drivers. The F121 subwoofers are powered by a Funktion-One E90 amplifier.

The DJ set-up is almost identical to Mansion with two Pioneer CDJ-2000 DJ decks feeding an Allen & Heath Xone:92 DJ mixer. Here, however, monitoring is taken care of by a Funktion-One PSM18 Point Source stage monitor, which offers superior performance with its triple concentric arrangement - combining a very high power 18-

inch driver with a coaxially mounted two-way compression driver. Two XTA DP448 audio management systems - one for the main system and one for monitoring - control the signal processing. The DP448 has been designed to capture the audio signal as faithfully as possible, and reproduce it accurately. The range uses high-performance 24-bit converters on the inputs and outputs, running at 96kHz to give a bandwidth of over 30kHz and a dynamic range in excess of 116dB.

The lighting in Playground comprises six Robe ClubSpot 500 CTs, two Robe Scan 575 XTs and two Hungaroflash EuroDMX PRO strobes. The ClubSpot 500s offer nine dichroic filters, a rotating gobo wheel with six rotating indexable and replaceable gobos, a three-facet prism and two manual adjustable beam apertures - 15° and 22°. The lighting and effects are controlled using Nicolaudie Sunlite software running on a PC. Playground also has two InFocus projectors at its disposal.

Futuretech's dominance of the Maltese installation market is sustained by its ability to answer a wide-variety of project briefs. Its range of brands supports its quest, providing Stefan and his team with the tools they need to work with a host of different venues. With Mansion and Playground, the focus is very much on performance and bringing the spaces to life with breath-taking shows. The company deployed audio products that are recognised all over the world for their performance and reliability. It's this flexibility, attentive approach and thriving reputation that will continue to feed Futuretech's progress, as it embarks on some extremely interesting projects during the remainder of 2013 and beyond. 



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SOUND

4 x Funktion-One Resolution 5 loudspeaker; 6 x Funktion-One F121 subwoofer; 1 x Funktion-One PSM18 Point Source monitor; 1 x Funktion-One E90 amplifier; 3 x Funktion-One E45 amplifier; 2 x XTA DP448 processor; 1 x Allen & Heath Xone:92 mixer; 2 x Pioneer CDJ-2000 DJ deck

LIGHTING & VISUAL

6 x Robe ClubSpot 575 moving head; 2 x Robe Scan 575 XT scanner; 2 x Hungaroflash EuroDMX PRO strobe; Nicolaudie Sunlight software; 2 x InFocus projector

www.facebook.com/playgroundmalta