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More Jewels for Robe

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Quality, innovation and serious WOW factors are all core philosophies defining Jewel, the Hakkasan Group's newest night destination venue in Las Vegas, right in the heart of the Aria Resort & Casino ... a stunning looking space embracing some serious production values and fully focused on the guest experience.

Robe moving lights - 48 x Pointes, 8 x DLX Spots and 8 x ColorStrobes - are central to the lighting rig, once again designed by the Audiotek team led by Frank Murray. Dublin & London, based Audiotek has worked on a number of other premium projects for Hakkasan Group, and for this one they designed, specified, coordinated, project-managed and commissioned the club's technical infrastructure ... which included lighting, video and audio. "Every project offers new and interesting challenges. Jewel was tremendously exciting, offering a dramatic backdrop for some sensational lighting effects," stated Frank. Audiotek's lighting designer Andy Taylor worked alongside their project directors Chris Kmeic, Mags Morton and Len Bolger who all collaborated closely with local integrators NTA (National Technology Associates), Shaun Sullivan of Rockwell who created the stylish interiors and architect Shaun Yauch of BWA.

The main artistic brief from Hakkasan's project managers James Algate, Jeff Gooch and Jerry Klint was to keep in mind the streamlined, contemporary aesthetic defining the whole Aria resort.

When it came to lighting the club, there was already a large amount of LED in the overall visual design for the oval shaped room, which has a domed ceiling comprising concentric rings of video with four prominent pillars - also clad in pixels - at each corner.

Audiotek wanted to avoid the frequently seen cliché of following the architecture and ending up with another club with a ceiling crammed with circles of lights!

"However, we also didn't want to ignore the architecture and form completely, so instead devised a design uniting both criteria with a ring of lights around a relatively small oculus feature in the center of the room," explained Andy.

Most of the Pointes are rigged on 'spines' starting at the oculus feature and reaching out across the room. Rigged in groups of four, they can work as old-skool ACL beams - a look

that's currently trending. In the end-to-end orientation, they are also spaced to subtly mimic the contours of the ceiling.

This dual positioning has enhanced the flexibility and variety of looks that can be created. "It's not the most obvious physical lighting rig design for the room, but I think it helps make Jewel different and interesting," stated Andy.

One of their principal objectives was to give the venue its own look and personality. With so many LED elements and mappable pixels in the room and surrounding the dancefloor, the task of lighting was simultaneously challenging and inspiring for the Audiotek team. To combat the levels of ambient lighting being kicked out by the video and LED surfaces, they decided that beams should be the main luminaires.

This gives a specific look and also means the lights can be seen and make some spectacular impact in the relatively high ambient light levels.

"The Pointe continues to be a workhorse fixture for all our large club installations at the moment," Andy commented. Pointes are normally the fixture they pick and place first in a design.

"Placement is key to getting the best out of beam lights," he enthused, so once he had worked out where the Pointes should go, they became the backbone of the rig ... and everything else followed!

Needing some spot fixtures in the room, they chose Robe's LED DL4X.

The client had also made it clear from the outset that they didn't want another epic looking EDM club, so the DL4Xs provided a bit of finesse, some nice gobo work around the room and can double up as performance key lights.

Not overly impressed by any LED spot fixtures before seeing the DL4X, Andy and his colleagues soon realized the output made it ideal for this application.

Andy thinks the pre-programmed tungsten effects are "fantastic" and perfect for when the room is in use for corporate events, and that the gobos are refreshingly different.

Four of the ColorStrobes are positioned at ceiling height, directly above the dancefloor, pointing straight down, with one each on top of the four vertical LED-clad pillars at the corners of the room just below ceiling height and firing in on the dancefloor. They are used for both strobing and as blinders and crowd pleasers!

The Robe ColorStrobes were first demonstrated by Robe North America's nightclub guru David Chesal, who was invaluable in illustrating how they could best be optimized and programmed with some degree of 'buskability' for the lighting operator.

One of Andy's favorite features is the built-in pattern macros, which performs differently on the units in their two different positions around the room.

The fronts of the pillar-mounted ColorStrobes are visible so the patterns can clearly be seen while the fronts / patterns are not visible on the lower ones in the ceiling, just the actual light emanating from them, so the interplay between the eight ColorStrobes can be a dynamic effect in its own right.

Andy and Frank both think the brightness is incredible!

“Robe offered us some uber-cool fixtures with which to create an invigorating new venue in this capital of clubbing,” said Frank, “They continue to produce innovations that enable us to enhance our own demanding creative visions, and it’s a pleasure working with these dedicated professionals”.

Frank, Chris and the other Audiotek team members all enjoyed working with Nevin Edwards and Joe Garcia Miranda from integrators NTA on this mentally and physically challenging project. The Hakkasan technical team were Andrea Frey, Ed Saw, Gerardo (Gonzales), Jorge Telez and Shaun Sullivan.

“As with all the projects we undertake for Hakkasan, the emphasis was on quality, detail and thinking a bit out-of-the-box to create a signature environment,” stressed Frank.

He added that the relationship with Robe North America and Dave Chesal and also Ian W Brown from Robe UK, which handles distribution in Ireland - and therefore the Audiotek account - is “Incredible.” Both they and Robe International Sales Director Harry von den Stemmen were all paramount in our choice of brand for this flagship venue”.

Photo Credit: Drew Ressler (Rukes)



