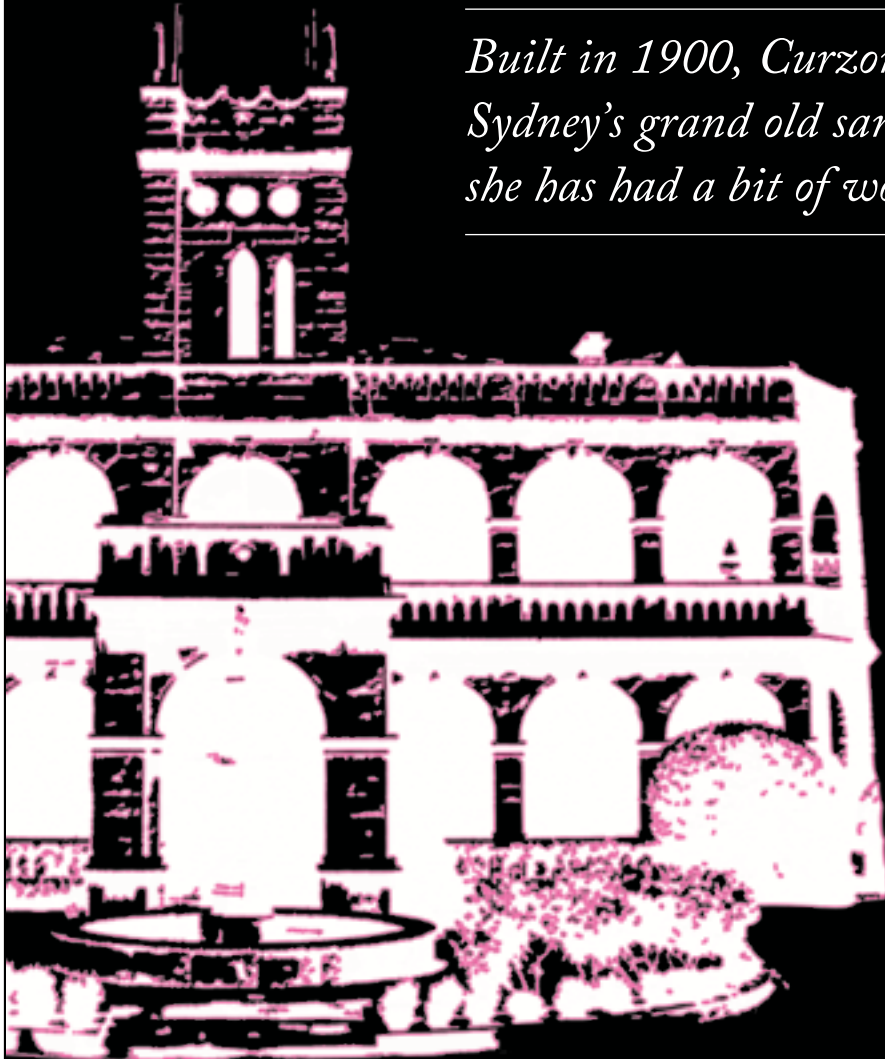


NEW APPROACH FOR CURZON HALL

Built in 1900, Curzon Hall is still one of Sydney's grand old sandstone ladies – although she has had a bit of work done recently.



By **STEPHEN BRUEL**

The stately Marsfield mansion recently opened Lady Mary's Pavilion, a new multipurpose and multi-configurable function centre connected to the original residence via a glass walkway. Staying true to the 100-year-old façade on the outside, it is the new AV installation and the ability to control the audiovisual, lighting, rigging, video and audio via a wireless touch panel that sets this function centre apart from the rest.

Curzon Hall is owned by the Navarra Venue Collection, a family business with interests in two other function centres;

the Conca D'oro in Riverwood and the Le Montage in Leichhardt. Venue Manager of Curzon Hall Marie Florio was keen to offer the corporate clients in the area, particularly the North Ryde CBD, a venue incorporating a blend of old world charm, open garden areas and the latest in technology, particularly in the areas of sound and AV.

"The costs of external companies to bring in their own AV and sound equipment can be quite high," said Florio. "Therefore by installing this sophisticated system in our venue, it enables us to provide an all inclusive package to our clients. By dealing with the venue directly it saves the client time, money and

gives them peace of mind with superior products."

Florio decided to use Sydney-based Total Concept Projects (TCP) for the total audio and visual design, build and installation of the new Pavilion. According to Florio, TCP have been involved and are familiar with the Navarra Venue Collection for a long time, having undertaken work previously at Le Montage.

"TCP provide the services and equipment we require and also have a very good understanding of the clientele we attract," said Florio. "They are also able to deal with all requests and provide the high level of service we are renowned for."

TCP Founding Director Anthony Musico was keen to be involved in the project. Starting TCP in 1984 with partner Richard Skarzynski, TCP's past clients include designing and installing AV equipment into the Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre, Department of Defence HQ and the Crown Convention Centre in Melbourne. One thing Musico was particularly interested in about this project was the aims of the client and being involved from the very first step. According to Musico, the design took 4-5 months and the build around 6 months, once the building was in a state to facilitate cabling.

"The brief we received from Navarra was to give them a room that sounds and looks amazing and is therefore easy to sell to clients, so we designed the room accordingly," said Musico.

"Being a 'greenfield' site, ie built from the ground up, we were able to be actively involved with the architects, electrical engineers and builders, allowing building plans to cater for our requirements from the get go, as opposed to retro fitting



later, alleviating a lot of potential problems.”

To satisfy the client’s brief to help attract the corporate sector, Musico decided not to go for a typical wedding reception venue with big box speakers. Instead Musico used forty Electro Voice (EV) EVID C12.2 ceiling mount full range speakers. Each pair are powered by its own Dynacord Paramus PCL1415 four channel 100W amplifiers, 20 in total, with each pair’s output directed by an EV NetMax N8000 front end digital audio control processor.

“The beauty of this set up is that we can pre-set delays to any configuration of the room however we want,” said Musico. “This provides an even audio coverage throughout the entire room with no areas louder or softer.”

The microphone set up includes EV REV-D dual channel wireless microphone receivers, EV REV-BP wireless belt packs, EV RE92TX lapel microphones, EV REV-HC5 wireless hand held microphones and EV CLA-4 hi gain antennas.

“All microphones and audio inputs are sent directly into the NetMax processor and switched out to the various outputs and amplifiers,” said Musico. “This also includes audio zones on the lawns, in the back garden, gazebo, and the amenities.”

Bosch Communications Systems supplied the EV and Dynacord equipment and Bosch Senior Engineer Bryan Davidson was also involved in this project from the outset. With a solid working partnership with TCP over many years including previous installs the Brisbane Tennis Centre, Brisbane International Airport, Jupiter’s Casino on the Gold Coast and the AAMI Stadium in Adelaide, the project was in good hands.

“We chose Bosch for two main reasons, we work well together and we also have a lot of experience with the Bosch product range,” said Musico. “Bryan helped come up with a fully integrated solution, and also modelled the room using EASE computer modelling software for audio.”

An AMX NI-4100 Netlinx integrated controller driven by two AMX MVP- 8400 wireless touch panels provides the brains behind not only the audio system, but everything else as well.

“There are very few venues that have their entire AV, lighting, rigging, video and audio all being able to be controlled by wireless touch panel,” said Musico. “You can therefore take control of the room from anywhere within the room.”

The lighting system consists of 10 Coemar ProSpot 250 units and eight colour changing LED chandeliers. All



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downlights are LED for energy savings and RGB to change the colour in the room and controlled by a Dyalite system.

“We’ve used a DMX interface that allows us to program the moving lights via the wireless touch panel, again, from anywhere within the room,” said Musico. “The AMX controls the Dyalite lighting system, and the Dyalite controls the LEDs.”

According to Musico, 12 half tonne Lodestar motors are concealed in the roof for larger events and productions.

“When they have a large function like a car launch or a fashion show for example, AV companies can bring in rigging and trusses, drop motors down to them through holes in the ceiling, pick up the trusses and raise them to the ceiling,” said Musico. “A DMX and 240v infrastructure in the roof allows technicians to remotely patch moving

lights and power up dimmers.”

There are 8 wall boxes and 6 floor boxes around the venue with each offering audio in and out, VGA and video, and run on CAT6 back to an Extron Electronics MTPX 1616 switcher. According to Musico, the audio outputs allow a cameraman to plug in his transmitter, pick up an audio feed from the system and record directly to video camera without having to run cables everywhere.

“All VGA and video signals are converted to CAT 6, and all reticulation is done via CAT 6,” said Musico. “It’s cheaper as far as cabling is concerned, you get better distance for video signals and there is less interference as all cables are skew corrected. The pictures are always rock solid and you have the advantage of being able to run longer distances without having to amplify.”

Lady Mary’s Pavilion has four NEC projectors and four Screen Technics projection screens, and can be physically split into two rooms (Sabrina’s View and the Sir Philip Lounge) creating either a ‘landscape’ or ‘theatre’ mode’. When not split and in full ‘theatre’ mode, the screen can be raised all the way to the ceiling to allow people at the back of the room the opportunity to view.

When in ‘landscape’ mode, the screen housing is able to be lowered two metres from the ceiling of the Sir Philip Lounge before the screen deploys, saving people towards the front from straining their necks. According to Musico this makes this a ‘...unique facility.’

“Of course the projectors are controlled by the AMX controller,” said Musico. “As are the motorised blinds.”

TCP has designed and installed an integrated AV, audio, lighting and rigging system that is not only simple to operate via the wireless AMX touch control panel, but also inline with Curzon Hall’s request for a system that is unobtrusive, blends in with the old world charm of the site as a whole, satisfies their clients demands and potentially saves them some money.

“These days a venue has to be flexible enough to cater for multiple events and facilitate multiple AV companies,” said Musico. “If you win over the AV company you’ll book the room because a lot of it comes down to cost. If an AV company has to spend two days to do a set up, whereas if we give them a room they can be in and out of there in a day, that minimises the cost to the client, the AV company is happy because they have the infrastructure and do not have to run wires everywhere, they like the room and recommend it to their clients.”

