

# LUNA



POMONA, USA  
THE AMERICAS

Luna nightclub and lounge in California is what its name might suggest, a multi-functional space, which serves the surrounding communities of Los Angeles, Orange County and Inland Empire well. Its versatility means Luna can cater for a range of events, transforming from its daytime identity of a restaurant into a lounge and nightclub in the evening.

The award winning NKDDI, a design firm from California, was appointed to the project back in 2009, and President Nikko Hendi headed up the design of the new venue. NKDDI work across the US, so to be part of a project so close to home was particularly pleasing for Nikko and his team. Nikko explained his brief: "The owners of the venue wanted to develop a destination venue to serve three large counties in Southern California. Due to our firm's creative history, the

owners left everything else up to us and gave our firm the freedom to develop the architecture, interiors, and entertainment and architectural lighting."

From the outset Luna was intended to be a high-end establishment, so it was imperative that the venue not only had high-class design, but high quality audio and lighting equipment too.

The venue takes visitors on a journey. At its entrance, Luna is very much a subtle and sophisticated lounge and this has been created by the careful choice of colours and textures, unobtrusive lighting and integrated sound. As visitors explore the deeper depths of Luna they enter a high-energy nightclub area.

Nikko's interior and architectural design worked side by side with the lighting design. He explained how important it is to ensure the lighting equipment is just right so everything else falls into place. He said: "Our firm is the only decision maker in specification and we are very strict about our specs. In almost all of our projects we use Martin



Professional. Selection of any equipment and material in our projects is dictated by quality, performance, and most importantly customer service. Martin Professional has not only met our requirements but they have exceeded our performance requirements."

Martin Professional Inc's Regional Sales Director for Entertainment, Gregory Jones, worked alongside Nikko and the NKDDI team. He said: "Nikko and his team had designed this beautiful and unique space and were looking for some specific lighting solutions. With previous experience on other NKDDI projects, I was happy to get the call and dive right in."

The Lounge Room at Luna houses the main bar. In here Nikko opted for plush velvet seating, rich dark wood tones and contrasting white tiles for the interiors. These heavy and reflective materials work with the lighting as they create an added shadow play and allow a subtle introduction of colour through the space.

Greg continued: "Since NKDDI was not only the lighting design firm

but also the architect and interior designer for Luna, there is always a refreshing approach to how Nikko and his team use the entertainment lighting aspect to enhance the special features and finishes throughout the space."

The Lizard Lounge is an extension of the Lounge Room and was named after the red lizard skin wall covering. This section of the venue is designed to have a more relaxed atmosphere for those who want to take a break from the more full-on technology in the main room. In the Lizard Lounge the audio levels are considerable lower, yet visitors are still able to enjoy a vivid light show, thanks to four Martin Professional Mania EFX500 effect light fixtures.

As you would expect, the Main Room is at the heart of the venue. It has been kitted out with 19 Martin Professional smartMACs, two Martin Atomic 3000 strobes, four Martin EFX500 effect lights, two Jem K1 hazers and over 75ft of Martin EasyPix RGB LED lighting.

Greg explained how despite being new to the market, EasyPix was ►

installed for this project: "For Luna there were some budget concerns on over 200ft of linear lighting yet the light output needed was not negotiable. At that time Martin was due to release a new cost effective linear lighting fixture called the Easypix. It's a very bright and slim LED based linear lighting product that comes in 1200mm and 300mm lengths. The Easypix was chosen by Nikko based on the extreme output that comes with a very attractive price point. Luna was the first installation of the Easypix Series in the US."

Easypix is a modular, plug-and-play LED strip light designed to enhance interior spaces. With full spectrum RGB colour mixing, a choice of diffuser lenses, and an exceptionally easy means of installation, Easypix was the ideal choice for the Luna project, as provides a simple yet highly capable dynamic lighting solution. The Easypix product was debuted at Luna before its official release, allowing the venue to live up to its high-end expectations.

Nikko explained how he designed the Main Room: "Due to the massive size and volume of this room, we incorporated square towers and blades lined with oak strips to add texture, assist in breaking up the field of view, adding depth to the space and creating a canvas to paint the space with entertainment lighting. With 22ft ceilings in this room we were able to create a fun aggressive, yet intimate space." Behind the DJ booth in the Main Room is the VIP entrance. Washing the walls with more Martin Easypix LED fixtures has created a three-dimensional corridor here.

Moving outdoors to the patio area, and there is another unique and highly defined design feature. Nikko and his team were keen to make this section of the venue as striking as possible, and with that in mind, Nikko came up with the Pods. A clever seating design, which allows visitors to socialise with friends, yet thanks to their opaque appearance means they are never too far away from the action inside. Nikko said: "My personal favourite area of the project is the Patio and white Pods, as they are washed with Martin EFX700's that we developed a custom diffuser lens for. It is a beautiful marriage between architectural elements (textures, shapes and colours) and entertainment lighting."

Lighting control for the venue is provided by two Martin M-PCs. This Windows-compatible version of the Maxxyz and M-Series console is an online and offline editing tool that gives user total Maxxyz functionality from the ease and convenience of a PC or laptop. There are plans to replace one of these with a Martin M1 console in the not too



distant future.

Like any other project, Luna was not completed without challenges, as Nikko described: "The number one challenge for this project that seems to be the typical pattern for any projects being completed at this time, was budget and funding. During the world wide economic crisis it has been quite a challenge to deliver high-end projects. We had to walk a fine line to be able to deliver this project without sacrificing our firm's strict quality standards."

Greg summed up the lighting installation by expressing his gratitude. He said: "Thanks to Nikko Hendi and his team for the chance to be a part of another great project, and to Dennis Bandy, the owner who was committed from the start."

When it came to the audio solution, Nikko had limited involvement

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as he is not an audio designer, however, he did have some input with the audio consultants, Fyxx Entertainment. Nikko said: "We work closely with our audio consultants during the schematic design phase to ensure the audio positioning was well incorporated in our architectural design."

After Nikko introduced Fyxx Entertainment to the project, Fyxx's Adrian E. de Pamphilis took on the position of Audio Designer. He said: "Sizing the square footage of the room, we decided to go with the EAW Avalon Series system. The height of the ceiling was perfect to emphasise the overall punch of the speakers."

Adrian specified four EAW Avalon DC1 3-way full-range speakers, four EAW Avalon DCS2 subwoofers, and two EAW DC6 2-way full-range speakers at Luna. The Avalon series of speakers is ideally suited to large-scale nightclub installation, and this was one reason for selecting these products. Adrian continued: "We have been using these systems very extensively, so we are aware of what they can do, and we knew they would be the right choice for this project."

The Avalon speakers provides high output, high definition reinforcement sound and their asymmetrical horns direct coverage downwards when the enclosures are mounted flush to a wall as they are in Luna. While the subwoofers provide extremely high output sub bass reinforcement. The DCS2's house two 12-inch woofers on an advanced bent bass horn, which provide very high levels of sub bass, an audio requirement to ensure a high-end nightclubbing experience at Luna. Additionally, there are 15 QSC AD-S282 surface mount loudspeakers and a further four VRS12 subwoofers from EAW. A total of two QSC CX1202V amplifiers, 10 QSC RMX5050 amplifiers, and two ▶






Images supplied by NKDDI

QSC RMX1850HD drive the sound system. Adrian said: "QSC was the natural choice for the sound for two reasons: one, they are super reliable amplifiers and two, they are right here in Southern California and their service is superb."

Processing is provided by a single Rane RPM 88 multiprocessor, which offers ultimate flexibility in signal processing. The RPM 88 is a drag and drop configurable DSP-based device, which is set up and controlled using Rane's Drag Net software. Adrian described the reason for selecting Rane: "The DSP used for the system is the Rane RPM88. We have been using these processors for more than eight years and never had a single defective unit. The sound quality is also excellent. Thanks to the capabilities of the sound processor, we are controlling the sound system via Wi-Fi that makes it really easy to tune and configure the venue."

Luna was commissioned in 2009, and completed at the end of 2010, a financially difficult time period. Despite the bleak odds, Luna pulled through and is enjoying its opening period. A high-end project like this one is a significant landmark for all those involved, and must evoke a real sense of satisfaction. With some firm business relationships made during the Luna project, it may not long until these companies are pulling the next big venue out of the bag. 

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### SOUND

4 x EAW Avalon DC1 3-way full-range speaker; 4 x EAW Avalon DCS2 subwoofer; 2 x EAW Avalon DC6 2-way full-range speaker; 4 x EAW VRS12 subwoofer; 15 x QSC AD-S282 surface mount loudspeaker; 2 x QSC CX1202V amplifier; 10 x QSC RMX5050 amplifier; 2 x QSC RMX1850HD amplifier; 1 x Rane RPM 88 multiprocessor

### LIGHTING

25 x Martin Professional smartMAC moving head; 11 x Martin Professional smartMAC wash lens; 2 x Martin Professional Atomic 3000 strobe; 15 x Martin Professional Mania EFX 500 effect light; 15 x custom diffuser lens for EFX 500 effect light; 5 x Martin Professional Mania EFX 700 flower effect light; 5 x custom diffuser lens for EFX 700 flower effect light; 2 x Martin Professional Maxxy PC controller; 200 ft of Martin Professional EasyPix RGB LED; 11 x Martin Professional power supply; 2 x Martin Professional Jem K1 hazer; 2 x Martin Professional AF-2 DMX fan

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