

Case Study

Central Hall Westminster - AV Installation



WHITE LIGHT

LIGHTING • AUDIO • VIDEO





Overseeing Complete AV Installation

Central Hall Westminster is a Grade II listed building, located opposite Westminster Abbey. Built in 1912, it housed the first-ever meeting of the United Nations and has welcomed historic figures such as Dr Martin Luther King Jr, Gandhi and Sir Winston Churchill. Today the venue is used for corporate, public and private events and its spaces range from intimate meeting rooms for five delegates to exhibition spaces for 1000 guests to the Great Hall which fits a potential audience of 2400. In 2015, White Light was appointed as the venue's Production Service Partner. During this time, the company has overseen the installation of the very latest AV technology in the building's numerous spaces.

WL's Venue Director Jonjo Glynn comments: "Our role at Central Hall Westminster was to provide the technical equipment that would allow every single space to be used to its potential. Due to the recent advancements in AV equipment, when people host either conferences or meetings, they expect to be able to draw on the very latest technology. At Central Hall Westminster, not only are guests surrounded by the beautiful architecture of the building but now have the technical facilities to ensure their event is a complete success".

There are 25 meeting and events spaces at Central Hall Westminster; ranging from the Great Hall, which features Europe's largest domed roof, to more

intimate meeting rooms. Working closely with the venue to decide what would be most suited to the clients' needs, WL and its expert team of designers and technicians had to create a bespoke AV system.

Jonjo comments: "In terms of equipment, we worked with three of the largest manufacturers in the AV market: Yamaha, Crestron and Christie. With Yamaha, we utilised their mixers, processors and speakers to create the largest in-house installation of their equipment in Western Europe. Using Crestron's DigitalMedia, we were able to offer control over audio, visual and presentation devices, simplifying the process for event organisers. With Christie projectors, this meant that any video content could be fully brought to life with high resolution visuals and a rich display".

Alongside providing the very latest technology, WL also appointed an experienced in-house team of production managers, technicians and designers. Jonjo adds: "Whilst it's important that each space has the latest technology, you also need the correct team in place to ensure that clients can get the most out of the brilliant facilities at Central Hall Westminster.

Jonjo concludes: "Ultimately, the installation at Central Hall Westminster means we are now able to offer visiting clients technical solutions that previously weren't available".

Yamaha's Largest Installation in Western Europe

To ensure that Central Hall Westminster had a completely reliable audio system, WL worked closely with industry-leader Yamaha to offer a state-of-the-art solution.

The venue required an audio system to be installed in four main meeting rooms and be completely automated, with no human operation required. It would need to be able to work and react by itself and also have the ability to self-mix and self-balance; something which the Yamaha Dan Dugan auto-mixing technology, along with the MRX7-D processor, offered.

The specified system is the same for each meeting room, featuring an MRX7-D with XMV4280-D four channel, Dante-enabled power amplifier. Loudspeakers in each space comprise pairs of surface-mount VXS5 with VXS10S subwoofers.

Following this initial install, four further spaces were quickly specified to feature MRX7-Ds, along with other Yamaha equipment, including an MTX5-D matrix processor and a pair of MSP5 studio monitors. At the same time, the Great Hall's audio system was updated to include QL5 and QL1 digital mixers and two Rio1608-D i/o units, complete with MY4-DA4 output cards. With a Dante network installed throughout the CHW complex, WL designed an expandable system which made the venue a truly connected space.

In each space, there are local inputs for microphones and laptop outputs, as well as two channels of radio microphones. In addition every space is equipped with visual playback facilities, which are linked to the audio system. One of the many advantages of using the MRX7-D is that the system is designed for all of the rooms to be able to talk to one another, and for any Dante signal to be able to be passed to any Dante receiving module within the venue.



Key Info:

- The Client
Central Hall Westminster
- Brief
To oversee the complete AV installation within the various spaces throughout Central Hall Westminster.
- Key Individuals
Jonjo Glynn - WL's Venue Director
Jason Larcombe - WL's Project Manager
Richard Wilson - WL's Director
Paul Southern - CHW Managing Director
Phil Ward - CHW Venue Technician
- Key Equipment
Yamaha MRX7-D Processor
Yamaha QL1 and QL5
Chrisite Boxer Projector
Crestron 16x16 Digital Matrix





State-of-the-art Crestron Integration System

WL's Crestron installation at Central Hall Westminster provides a fully integrated system to combine all aspects of technical production within the venue. Crestron provides the backbone of a network that brings together projection, lighting and audio; complimenting the flexibility of Crestron DigitalMedia with an expansive DANTE audio network.

Being the venue's flagship space, The Great Hall features a wide range of permanently installed AV equipment. For particularly large events, WL is often required to draw on its extensive hirestock, depending on the client's brief. Thanks to the Crestron 16x16 DigitalMedia matrix at the heart of its system, this allows any inputs and outputs within the hall to be instantly reconfigured at the push of a button. As a result, WL is able to bring the client's brief to life, ensuring the technical solutions fulfil their exact requirements.

The Crestron installation extends throughout the building which houses more than 25 events spaces, providing seamlessly integrated audio-visual facilities which are easy to use and facilitate BYOD meetings with zero setup or turnaround time.

One of the greatest benefits for the client is the system's ease-of-use. This not only means that set-up times are reduced drastically but that clients have complete confidence when using the space without a dedicated AV engineer in the room. Due to the system's subtle and sleek design, it blends into the surroundings – a key requirement of the client to maintain the architectural heritage of the space.

Similarly, the throughout and turn-around time between large events in the Great Hall is vastly improved through the DigitalMedia platform's ability to re-configure the whole infrastructure of the space at the push of a button, combined with Crestron's single-point command of the entire package of lighting, audio and AV equipment.

The installation throughout the Grade II listed building took two months to complete and is now an integral part of any event taking place within Central Hall Westminster.

Key Equipment

- GREAT HALL
16x16 Digital Matrix
TSW-1052 Main Control Screen
CP3 Control Processor
- LIBRARY/LECTURE HALL
16x16 Digital Matrix
TSW-1052 Main Control Screen
CP3 Control Processor
- MEETING/BREAK OUT ROOMS
TSW-752 Control Screen
DMPS3-4K-150 DigitalMedia Presentation System
AirMedia

Motor Rigging System

WL also installed a brand-new motorised rigging system to the Great Hall. Previously, if any equipment wanted to be rigged from the Great Hall's ceiling, this had to be manually carried. WL installed a range of LTM LoadGuard Motors within the domed roof, ensuring that clients could save on time and money as well as have more flexibility when using the Great Hall space.



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