

GENELEC®

CASE STUDY

Educating the next generation

GENELEC GOES BEYOND EXPECTATIONS AT THE SHANGHAI VOCATIONAL SCHOOL OF CONTEMPORARY MUSIC





FORWARD-THINKING MUSIC SCHOOL CALLS ON CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION



The Shanghai Vocational School of Contemporary Music has a noble aim: to cultivate professional talents in modern music production and performance. With the support of the Shanghai Municipal Government, it has set about this undertaking by creating a studio complex that will establish a high-level music training base to cultivate market-oriented students. These youngsters will therefore receive a modern

education and absorb the cutting-edge ideas required to succeed in employment after graduation.

Filled with eye-catching spaces and novel design concepts, the striking studio complex has been built to inspire creativity. During the early stages of development, Shanghai SunYart Digital Technology Director Alex Wei created a basic layout for the facility and continued to

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refine the plans alongside Technical Director, Zhang Minggang. Technical Execution was provided by He Weier, alongside world-renowned acoustician, Sam Toyoshima. One of the key factors for the team was creating a facility that would combine acoustics and aesthetics to the best effect. “Mr Toyoshima is an acoustic designer full of design aesthetics,” says Wei. “I wanted this project to meet the acoustic requirements and to have visual impact, to have that ‘wow’ factor, so our ideas fitted well together. With a better visual design and a comfortable environment, inspiration and creativity will be stimulated.”

The aesthetics of the design call on light yellow wood materials, combined with grey perforated aluminium panels in the control room, and use various geometric shapes in a bold way to create a rich texture. These design choices fitted well with the more technical decision to select Genelec [Smart Active Monitors](#) precisely calibrated with

Genelec's [GLM](#) Loudspeaker Manager software throughout the complex, with the monitors' minimalist design and classic colour scheme complementing Mr Toyoshima's modern, condensed aesthetic style. “Genelec monitors have gained a good reputation in the industry, and were an inevitable choice for this project,” explains Wei.

Beyond the style of the studio complex, a great deal of technical thought has gone into its creation. Take for example the large 300m² recording studio with its variable reverberation time. The space features more than 70 rotary columns with different heights and diameters, and different sizes of sound absorption holes - which are used to achieve a reverberation time ranging from 0.8 to 1.2s.

The control room for this space features a pair of [1236](#) main monitors embedded in the floor-to-ceiling window. The team had a vision of making the monitors look as if



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they were floating in the glass, but faced challenges with the weight of the monitors and the assembly. Wei worked with Toyoshima's design, calculated the angle, centre of gravity and friction at the bottom accurately, and compared various construction materials and methods. With this worked out, the two 1236 monitors were installed, remaining consistent with the 6 degree inclination angle of the glass.

In addition, three 8351 coaxial nearfield monitors have been placed on retractable stands - which don't impede the sound from the main monitors when lowered - but can then rise mechanically to provide a 5.1 system for surround mixing. These are accompanied by two 7380 subwoofers to handle low frequency elements, which Wei and the team are very impressed with. "8351 monitors give a very modern sense of science fantasy," he explains. "When they are combined together with the 7380 subwoofers, it's as if you are piloting a spaceship in Star Wars!"

A further unique teaching space comes in the form of the 'staircase classroom', where students sit on steps rather than traditional seating to create a more relaxed environment. On one side of the classroom there is a large floor-to-ceiling window, looking into a studio. When the teacher is working, the students can not only enter the studio to watch, but also observe through the glass from the steps outside. Above the mixing console at the front of the classroom, a high-definition camera displays the teacher in action via a projection screen, while Genelec 1238 three-way main monitors relay the audio to the class.

The project also created four other recording spaces, including a mastering room on the ground floor fitted with stereo 1238 monitors and a 5.1 system comprising 8351s and a 7370 subwoofer. Additionally, a multifunctional 5.1 teaching studio features 8260 monitors with a 7370 subwoofer, and two small practice studios in the basement are each equipped with a pair of 8351 monitors.



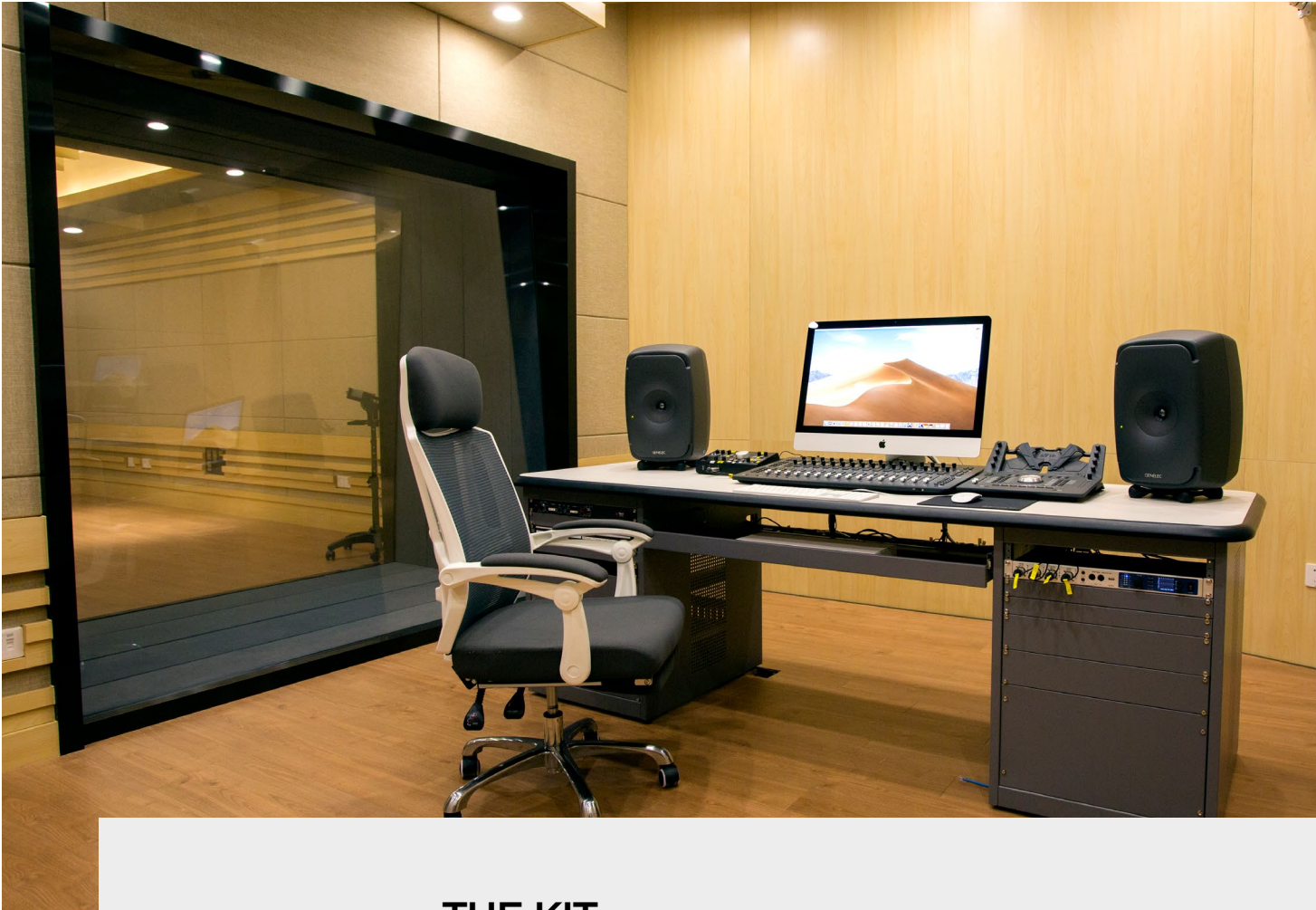


Renowned studio designer Sam Toyoshima

Staff at the school describe the results as going “beyond our expectations” and Wei is clearly proud of the innovative complex that has been created. “What we’ve ended up with here is excellent sound quality, and very accurate sound image positioning,” he comments. “The teachers at the school, the professors at Shanghai Conservatory of Music, and the visiting professors from other schools think that this is the best studio they’ve ever seen.”

For his part, Toyoshima agrees: “I think the high-quality equipment and creative atmosphere provided by the school can train a group of future-oriented sound engineers better and faster.

“We also appreciate that they are active speakers, which makes installation even more straightforward. Secondly, there was a clear directive to work with manufacturers who offer sustainable solutions that will deliver reliable performance for many, many years. Finally, of course – and this is what makes Genelec such a great choice for these sorts of applications – is just the purity of the sound. It will never sound messy or woolly, even when played at relatively high levels. What’s more, we don’t have to spend hours EQ-ing the system or tweaking audio settings because we know that Genelec will perform amazingly straight out of the box. The client is delighted and so are we.”



THE KIT

Music recording studio

- 2 x 1236A
- 5 x 8351A
- 2 x 7380A
- 1 x GLM Kit

Mastering studio

- 2 x 1238A
- 5 x 8351A
- 1 x 7370A
- 1 x GLM Kit

Multifunctional 5.1 recording studio

- 5 x 8260A
- 1 x 7370A
- 1 x GLM Kit

Staircase classroom

- 2 x 1238A
- 1 x GLM Kit

Small recording studio x 2

- 2 x 8351A
- 1 x GLM Kit

Editing room x 11

- 2 x 8340A
- 1 x GLM Kit