**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Genelec employed for a 25.4 channel sound system at RISD**

— 25 Genelec 8050B studio monitors and four HTS4B subwoofers constitute the sound system at the Studio for Research in Sound and Technology (SRST) at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) —

NATICK, MA, April 2, 2024 — The Rhode Island School of Design’s (RISD) Studio for Research in Sound and Technology (SRST) offers a space dedicated to exploration, technological advancement and learning within the realms of sonic arts and sound design. Established in 2018 under the name Spatial Audio Studio, SRST boasts a meticulously designed space equipped with a 25.4 channel [Genelec](https://www.genelec.com/) sound system (composed of 25 [Genelec 8050B studio monitors](https://www.genelec.com/8050b) and four [HTS4B home theater subwoofers](https://www.genelec.com/previous-models/hts4b)), an adaptable seminar/work area, an array of digital composition tools, and a collection of hardware synthesizers such as Serge modular and GRP. As a hub for research, the studio facilitates experimentation for faculty, staff, and students, aiming for outcomes suitable for peer-reviewed publication, presentation at conferences and festivals, and other forms of dissemination. The SRST hosts guest lectures and workshops led by designers, artists, and technologists, offering a dynamic platform for engagement with industry professionals and cross-institutional research networks.

Shawn Greenlee is a composer, sound artist and professor at RISD – he heads the Studio for Research in Sound & Technology, delving into spatial audio, high-density loudspeaker arrays, and unconventional sound synthesis methods in his recent endeavors. Since 1997, Greenlee has been actively engaged as a solo electronic/electroacoustic improviser, showcasing his talents through extensive tours across the United States and Europe, with notable appearances at conferences and festivals. Additionally, Greenlee holds a Ph.D. in Computer Music and New Media from Brown University and is also a RISD alumnus himself (BFA in printmaking).

“Back around 2015, I became very interested in spatial audio as a research area,” states Greenlee. “I started to perform at festivals and conferences, which had massive, multichannel sound systems. Around that time, we began work on the idea to create a sound design facility at RISD, a proper studio with a spatial audio array. The main feature of the space is that it houses a Genelec 25.4 channel sound system in a hemispherical dome configuration. It’s an acoustically optimized room, with the array being about 20 feet wide and 14 feet high. An interesting part of the design challenge is we are located just steps away from the Kennedy Plaza bus terminal in Providence. In order to achieve a suitable acoustical environment in the space, we worked with the acoustics consulting firm Acentech, who did an excellent job with the acoustic isolation. We don’t experience any interference from the outside. So even though buses go by this room all day, you would never know it!”

The space itself is divided between an Ambisonic speaker array, which are the Genelec speakers, and another side of the room, which is a flexible seminar area. Greenlee notes that once the studio was off the ground, things really ramped up in terms of student interest in the sound courses RISD started to offer. “One of the things that I’ve been particularly excited about as an educator is seeing students who are fairly new to working with sound as a medium and then having them come into the courses and begin right away with spatial audio and multichannel sound systems. Whereas my trajectory was starting with stereo, and then working my way up to higher possibilities like surround with more speakers, students are now coming in and immediately thinking about audio in a three-dimensional way in terms of composition. They’re able to place sounds in X, Y and Z coordinates and have them move around the space, while thinking about simulation of environmental sound and so forth. It’s a game-changer.”

Unlike some schools that hold courses that are one hour long a few days a week, RISD’s curriculum is structured differently. “A really exciting thing for the students, I think, is that each course session lasts for a good portion of an entire day,” Greenlee states. “Our courses are pretty long, which is important. They run five hours for the studio courses that we hold in the space. For example, currently our ‘Spatial Audio’ course is held Mondays from 1 to 6pm. There is a lot of time in the space working with faculty. And students can also book the space outside of class, so they can work on their projects independently.”

When asked why he chose Genelecs for the Spatial Audio Studio, he remarks, “I did my Ph.D. in computer music at Brown University, which is next door to RISD. During those years and after, as I went to various conferences, I would see Genelec speakers at a lot of the venues that I would perform in, especially if multichannel speaker arrays were installed. I think there’s a number of reasons for that. It’s certainly the audio quality of the Genelec speakers, but it’s also that they can be installed in so many different ways. They’re built very robustly and are flexible for mounting. When you want to create a dome of speakers, Genelec is an excellent choice. Regarding the audio quality, they have a very flat response and offer an honest rendering, which is a real asset for focussed and careful listening. They have a ‘neutral-ness’ about them, and they give you exceptional fidelity to what’s in the source audio. But, I also rely on Genelec speakers for their adaptability for, let’s say, ‘non-standard installations,’ which now are becoming more common. It's that flexibility that we really appreciate. And so, when it came time to decide on what we would use, Genelec was really my first choice.”

Looking toward the future, Greenlee shares, “I think one thing that we’re really excited about, and what this studio is helping us do, is to create a strong community around sound and music at the school. We have students that are really eager to focus their studies on sonic arts and sound design. And collaborating with other faculty and staff members like Research Fellow Alex Chechile, who develops work from his psychoacoustics studies involving the biomechanics of hearing, our course offerings are only going to expand. Genelec is a key part of that listening, learning, and research experience.”

For more information, please visit [www.genelec.com](http://www.genelec.com).

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Photo file 1: RISD\_Photo1.JPG

Photo caption 1: Main room at the Rhode Island School of Design’s (RISD) Studio for Research in Sound and Technology (SRST), featuring a 25.4 channel Genelec sound system (composed of 25 Genelec 8050B studio monitors and four HTS4B home theater subwoofers)

Photo file 2: RISD\_Photo2.JPG

Photo caption 2: Students work at the Rhode Island School of Design’s (RISD) Studio for Research in Sound and Technology (SRST), featuring a 25.4 channel Genelec sound system (composed of 25 Genelec 8050B studio monitors and four HTS4B home theater subwoofers)

Photo file 3: RISD\_Photo3.JPG

Photo caption 3: Genelec 8050B Studio Monitor, in use as part of a a 25.4 channel Genelec sound system at the Rhode Island School of Design’s (RISD) Studio for Research in Sound and Technology (SRST)

Photo file 4: RISD\_Photo4.JPG

Photo caption 4: Lecture session at the Rhode Island School of Design’s (RISD) Studio for Research in Sound and Technology (SRST), featuring a 25.4 channel Genelec sound system (composed of 25 Genelec 8050B studio monitors and four HTS4B home theater subwoofers)

PDF file: RISD\_Genelec\_CaseStudy\_Web.pdf

PDF caption: Genelec RISD case study

**About Rhode Island School of Design**

RISD (pronounced “RIZ-dee”) is a creative community founded in 1877 in Providence, Rhode Island. Today, we enroll 2,538 students hailing from 60 countries. Led by a committed faculty, they are engaged in 44 full-time bachelor’s and master’s degree programs and supported by a worldwide network of over 31,000 alumni who demonstrate the vital role artists and designers play in today’s society.

Beyond facts and figures, what is the spirit of this community? Through a cross-disciplinary curriculum of studio-based learning and rigorous study in the liberal arts, RISD students are encouraged to develop their own personal creative processes, but they are united by one guiding principle: in order to create, one must question. In cultivating expansive and elastic thinking, RISD seeks to activate a critical exchange that empowers artists, designers and scholars to generate and challenge the ideas that shape our world. RISD’s mission, at both the college and museum, is not only to educate students and the public in the creation and appreciation of works of art and design, but to transmit that knowledge and make global contributions. Visit [risd.edu](http://risd.edu) to learn more.

**About Genelec**

Genelec, the pioneer in Active Monitoring technology, is celebrating 45 years of designing and manufacturing active loudspeakers for true and accurate sound reproduction. Genelec is credited with promoting the concept of active transducer technology. Since its inception in 1978, Genelec has concentrated its efforts and resources into creating active monitors with unparalleled sonic integrity. The result is an active speaker system that has earned global acclaim for its accurate imaging, extremely high acoustic output from small enclosures, true high-fidelity with low distortion, and deep, rich bass.

Genelec is also continuing with its 18th year of Smart Active Monitoring™ technology, which allows studio monitors to be networked, configured and calibrated for the user’s specific acoustic environment. Each Smart Active Monitor or subwoofer is equipped with advanced internal DSP circuitry, which tightly integrates with the GLM (Genelec Loudspeaker Manager) software application, running on Mac or PC. GLM’s reference microphone kit allows the user’s acoustic environment to be analyzed, after which GLM’s AutoCal feature optimizes each Smart Active Monitor for level, distance delay, subwoofer crossover phase and room response equalization, with the option of further fine tuning by the user. By minimizing the room’s influence on the sound, Smart Active Monitors deliver an unrivaled reference, with excellent translation between rooms.

Other brand and product names may be trademarks of the respective companies with which they are associated.

*—For more information on the complete range of Genelec Active Monitoring Systems, contact: Genelec Inc., 7 Tech Circle, Natick, MA 01760. Tel: (508) 652-0900;*

*Web:* [*http://www.genelec.com/*](http://www.genelec.com/)*.*

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