

CASE STUDY

THE CHURCH STUDIOS, LONDON N8 WALTERS- STORYK DESIGN GROUP

Right and below Main studio space featuring 72-channel vintage EMI Neve console – one of the rarest recording and mixing desks in the world

Photography by
Lucy Williams



Transitioning from Gothic house of worship to contemporary 'cathedral of sound', The Church Studios preserved its massive stone facade but repurposed its cavernous interior to accommodate a musical, rather than ecclesiastical, mission.

Soaring ceilings and a fortress-like construction (c. 1855) gave musician Dave Stewart, who built the original studio in 1984, a wealth of incomparable acoustic recording options. However, when producer Paul Epworth purchased the studio in 2013, acoustic tests prior to a partial demolition required for a technology upgrade revealed a dearth of isolation between Studio 2's live and control room walls and the 74m² Studio 1 live room. A straightforward installation to upgrade the control room with a powerful Walters-StoryK Design Group/Augsburger monitor system became far more complex.

The architect/acousticians and studio installation/operational experts reconfigured their initial plans and developed a totally new design programme to assure recording artists they would have total acoustic isolation. *Wayne Head, architect director, BDP*

Project data

Start on site 1 January 2014

Completion 20 August 2014

Gross internal floor area 350m²

Form of contract or procurement route n/a

Construction cost Confidential

Construction cost per m² Confidential

Client Paul Epworth

Structural engineer Rodruiges Associates

M&E consultant ASADUL

Quantity surveyor None

Project manager Pete Hofmann, Miloco Builds

Design manager UK Mickey Whelan,
Miloco Builds

CDM coordinator Head Projects

Approved building inspector Head Projects

Main contractor Miloco Builds, Bourne Projects

CAD software used 3D Revit, AutoCAD 2014

Annual CO₂ emissions n/a





Specified products

Acoustic panels

RPG

Quadratic residue diffusers.

'Clear glass quadratic residue diffusers feature custom-built treatments calibrated to diffuse the studio frequency range. Fused into a single window installation, they enhance the room's acoustics and maintain recording artists' privacy.'

Dirk Noy, Walters-StoryK Design Group

www.rpgeurope.com

Spigo Acoustic

'Coalescing a slotted face with a perforated rear layer, these handsome wood panels offer aesthetically pleasing absorptive surfaces that precisely tune the control room acoustics by inhibiting sound reflections.' *Dirk Noy, Walters-StoryK Design Group*

Spraying

LFS

www.londonfurniturespraying.co.uk

Doors

IAC Acoustics

STC 54 acoustic doors with vision panels. Sprayed RAL 9016 30 per cent sheen. 'The soundproof 89mm thick sound-control door system employs cam-lift hinges and self-aligning magnetic acoustic seals to eliminate any possibility of sound leakage into or out of the control room.' *Dirk Noy, Walters-StoryK Design Group*

www.iac-acoustics.com

Lighting

Westwick Installation

Bespoke TRU LED lighting system.

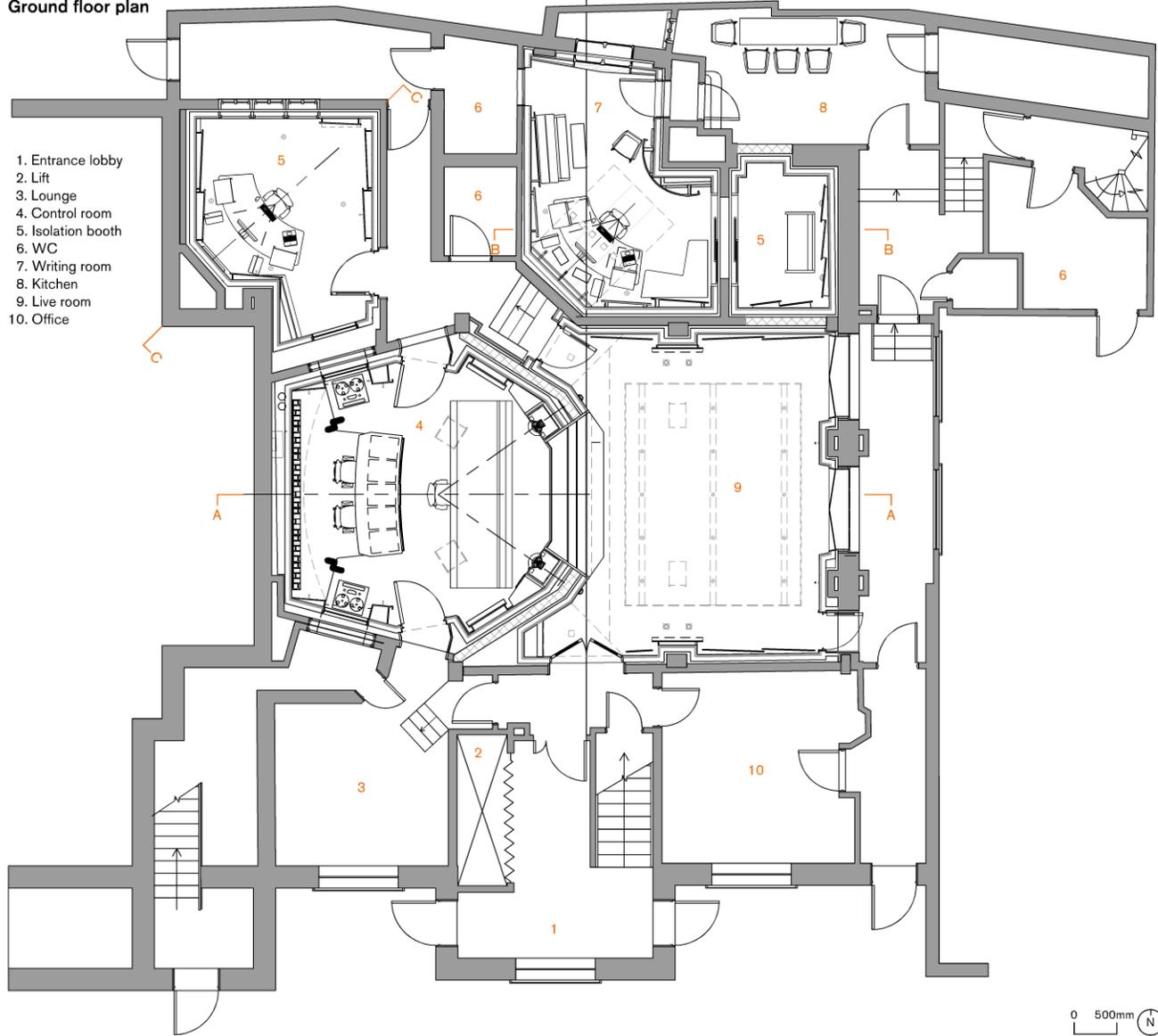
'Top flight recording studios need specialist light dimming and installation techniques to avoid hum and buzz interference pick-up, particularly on electric guitars which are extraordinarily sensitive.'

Westwick Installation has used experience gained in the last 10 years on Mark Knopfler and David Gilmour's lighting installations to provide bespoke colour, mood and task-light systems here. This can aid circadian rhythms, benefiting creativity, as different colours inspire differing levels of work intensity.' *Robert Haggas, Westwick Installation*

www.westwick.com

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Ground floor plan



- 1. Entrance lobby
- 2. Lift
- 3. Lounge
- 4. Control room
- 5. Isolation booth
- 6. WC
- 7. Writing room
- 8. Kitchen
- 9. Live room
- 10. Office

0 500mm N



Studio 1



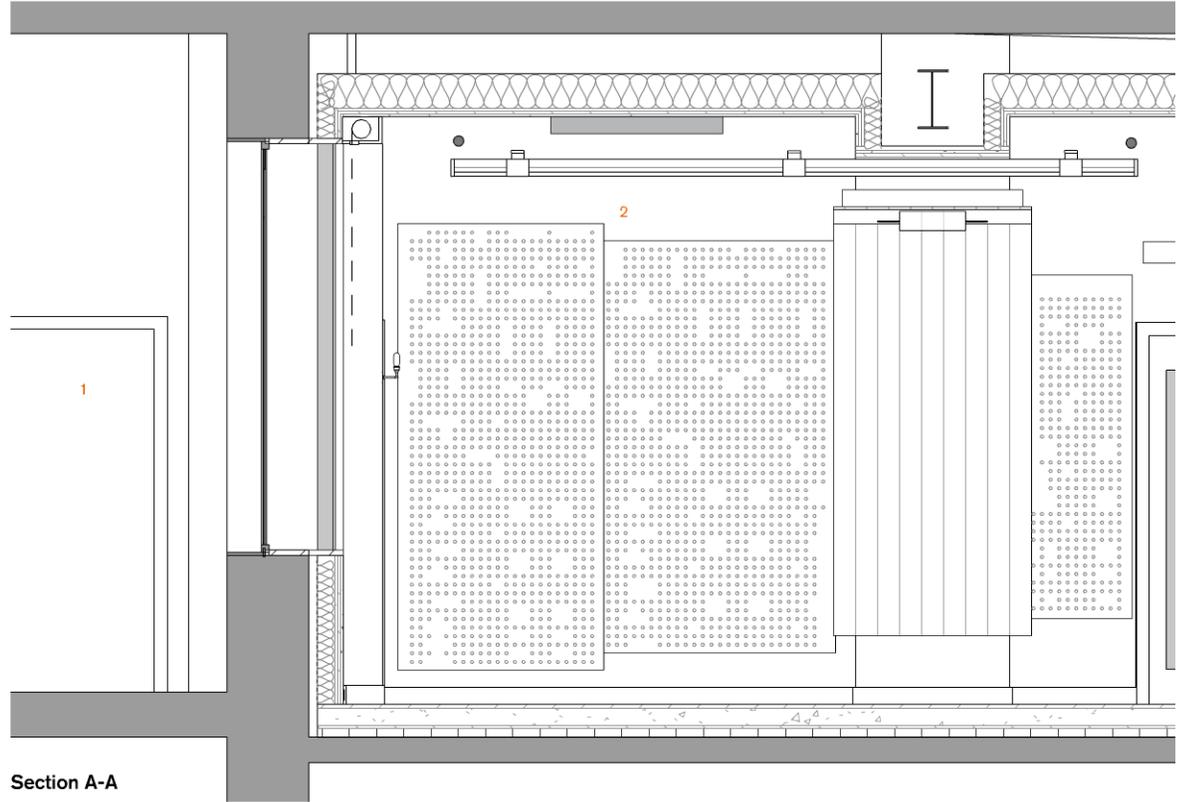
Rehearsal room



Studio 3

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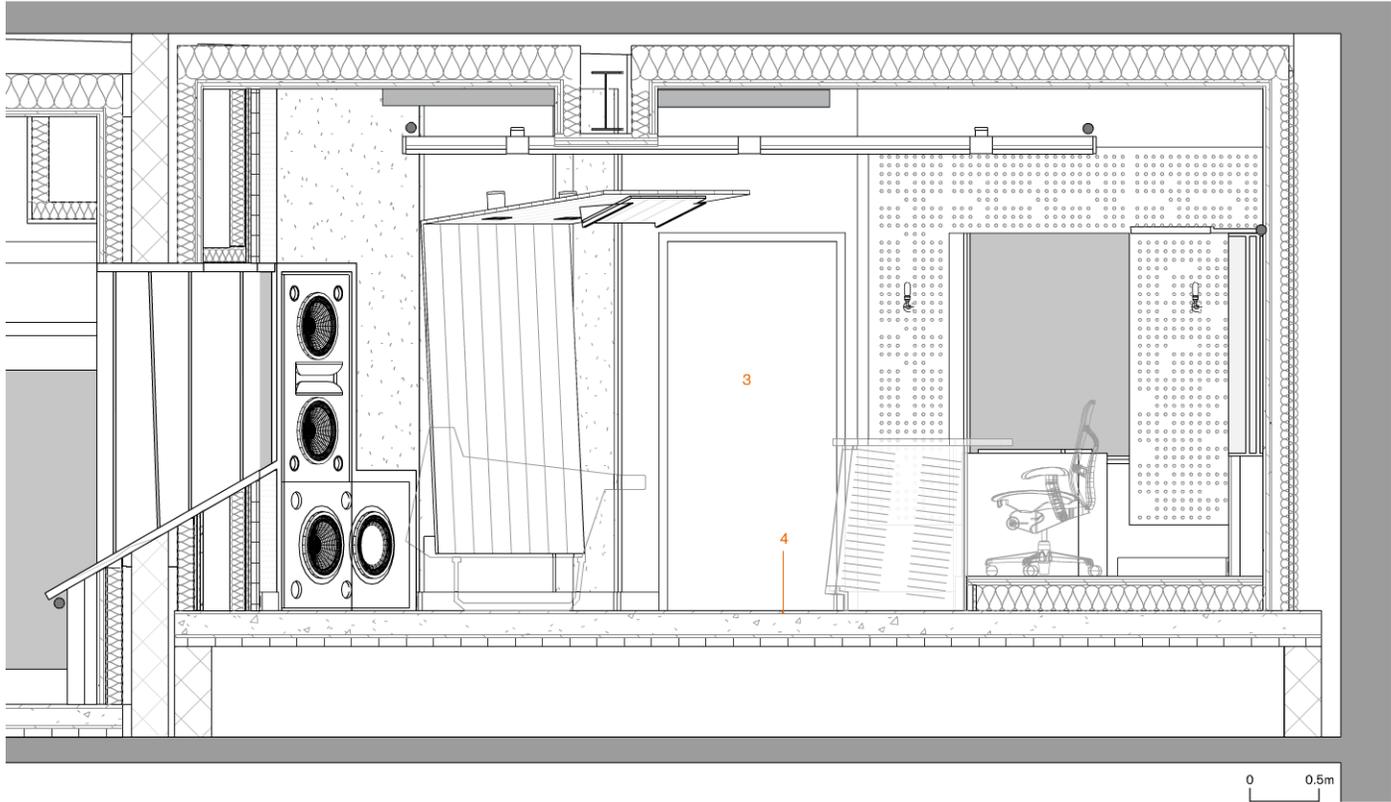
- 1. Corridor
- 2. Live room
- 3. Control room
- 4. Acoustic floor

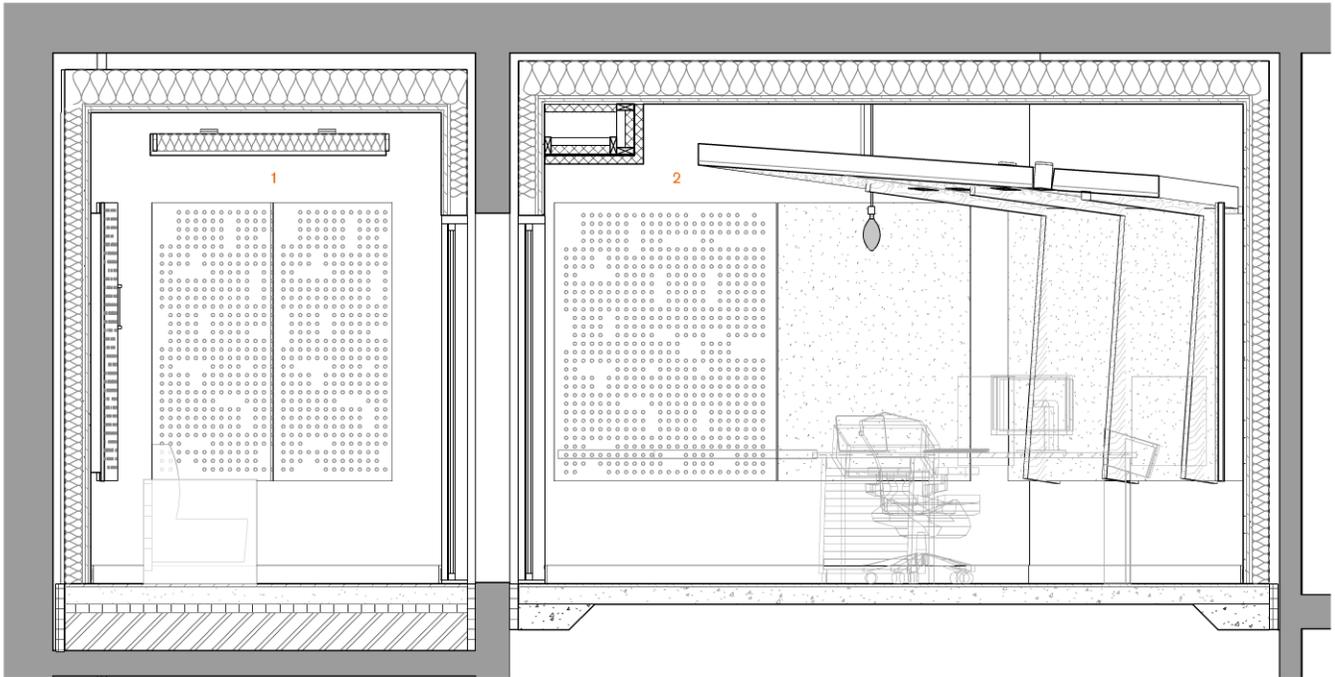


Section A-A

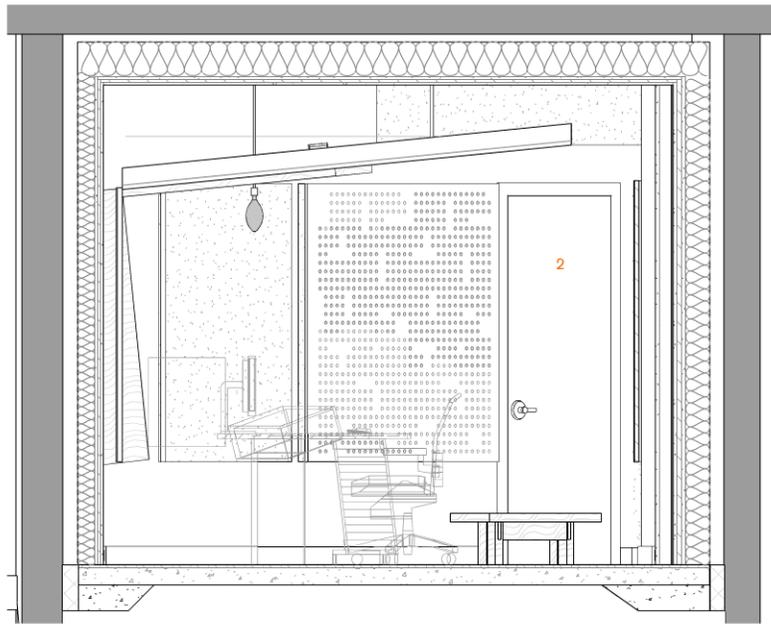


Right Studio 2 live room
Far right Studio 2 control room





Section B-B



Section C-C

0 0.5m

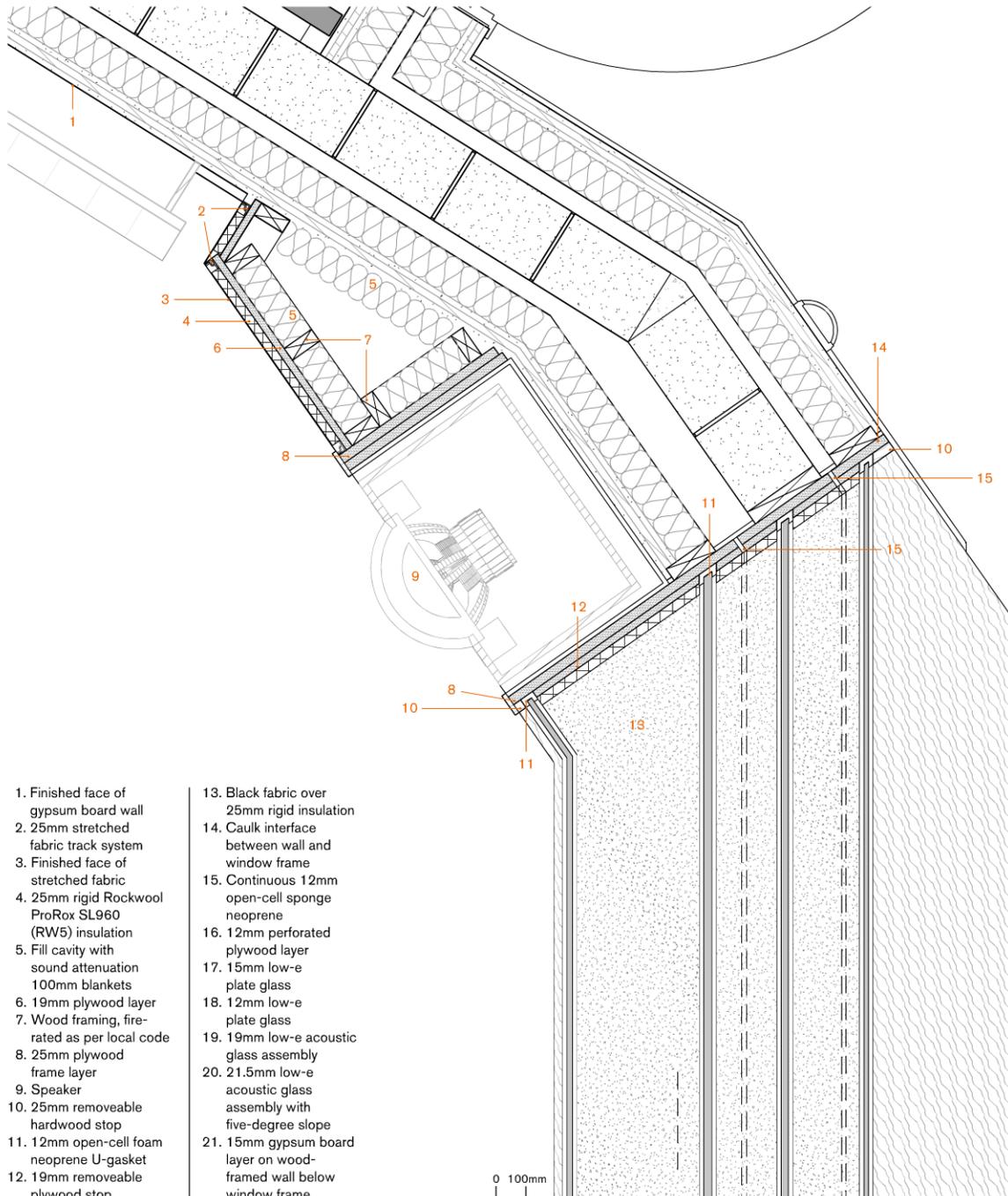
The design programme assures recording artists total acoustic isolation



- 1. Isolation booth
- 2. Writing room

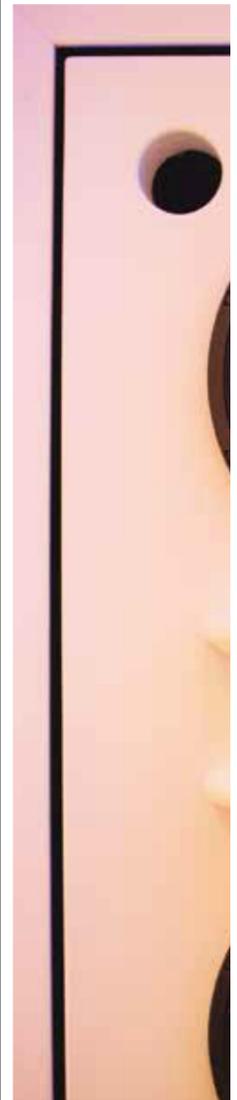
Above Studio 3:
 the Stanley Kubrick
 writing room

Detail: control room front wall plan



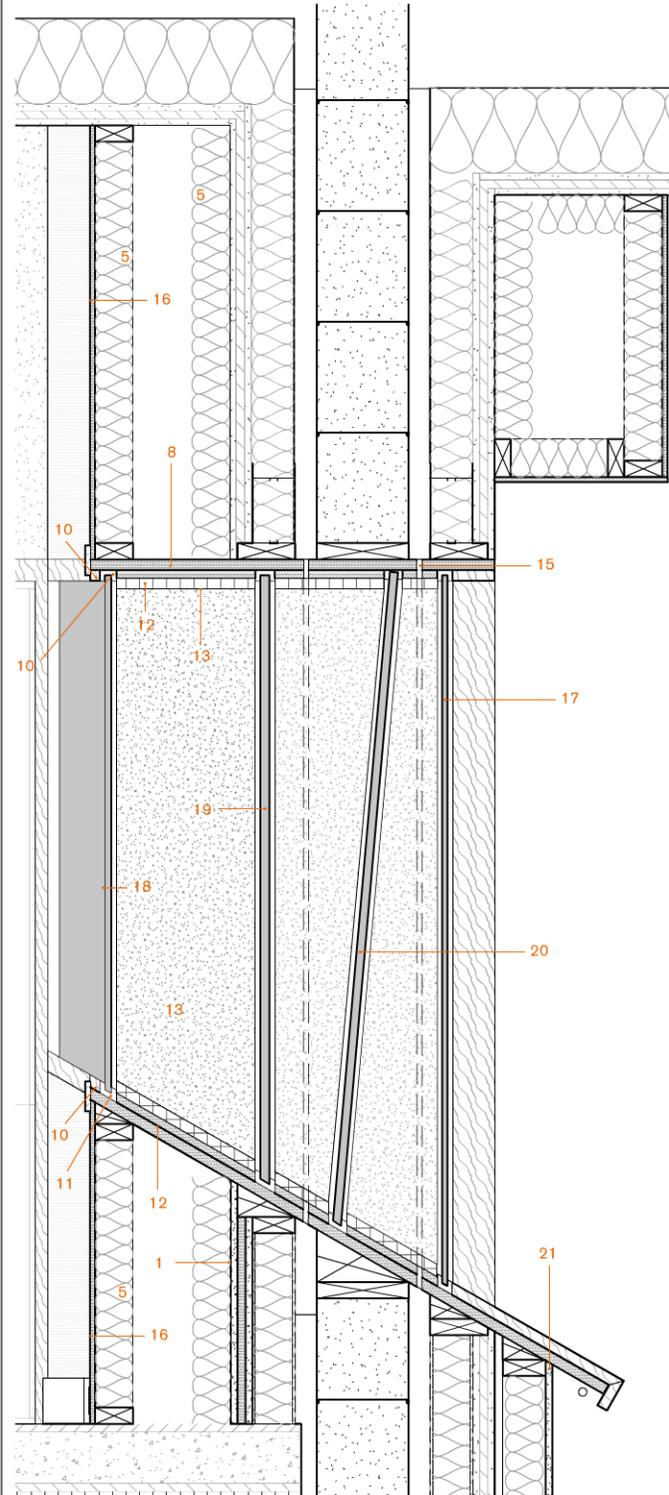
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|--|--|
| 1. Finished face of gypsum board wall | 13. Black fabric over 25mm rigid insulation |
| 2. 25mm stretched fabric track system | 14. Caulk interface between wall and window frame |
| 3. Finished face of stretched fabric | 15. Continuous 12mm open-cell sponge neoprene |
| 4. 25mm rigid Rockwool ProRox SL960 (RW5) insulation | 16. 12mm perforated plywood layer |
| 5. Fill cavity with sound attenuation 100mm blankets | 17. 15mm low-e plate glass |
| 6. 19mm plywood layer | 18. 12mm low-e plate glass |
| 7. Wood framing, fire-rated as per local code | 19. 19mm low-e acoustic glass assembly |
| 8. 25mm plywood frame layer | 20. 21.5mm low-e acoustic glass assembly with five-degree slope |
| 9. Speaker | 21. 15mm gypsum board layer on wood-framed wall below window frame |
| 10. 25mm removeable hardwood stop | |
| 11. 12mm open-cell foam neoprene U-gasket | |
| 12. 19mm removeable plywood stop | |

0 100mm





Detail: control room centreline section



SAMPLES BOARD

01. Shade

360mm with white enamel finish

www.urbancottageindustries.com

02. Binary amplitude diffuser panel

Sprayed finish, 30 per cent sheen, RAL 9016

www.rpgeurope.com

03. Speakers

Yamaha NS10, sprayed finish, 30 per cent sheen, RAL 9016

www.milocogear.com

04. Acoustic stretched fabric system

Lucia by Camira

www.desmondandsons.co.uk

05. Flooring

Whitewashed flooring by Galleria Elite

www.ukflooringdirect.co.uk

06. Bespoke toe line boxes

Sprayed finish, 30 per cent sheen, RAL 9016

www.kelseyweb.co.uk

07. Dividers

Clear perspex

www.rpgeurope.com

Music is created to establish a mood but, paradoxically, the production environment traditionally emphasises variable acoustic treatments designed to modulate sound reverberation and absorption. These enhance the music being recorded but establishing a creative environment to benefit the artist's mood has largely been an afterthought.

Recent advances in computer-controlled lighting allowed the architects to design live and control rooms finished entirely in white, outfitted with an LED mood-lighting system and a vastly programmable color palette. Now, beyond the traditional dimming option, these rooms can be bathed in an almost infinite variety of color combinations to inspire creativity. *Pete Hofmann, technical director, Miloco Builds*

08. Bespoke LED strip

www.westwick.com

09. Telephone

Petrol blue finish, by Wild and Wolf

www.redcandy.co.uk

10. Acoustic glass laminate

www.medinaglass.co.uk

11. Light bulbs, fittings and flex

www.urbancottageindustries.com

12. Vinyl flooring

4540 Ash Grey by Polysafe

www.hiscontracts.co.uk

13. Lighting

Ceiling AU-DLM392 spotlights by Aurora

www.cef.co.uk

14. Spigoacoustic panels

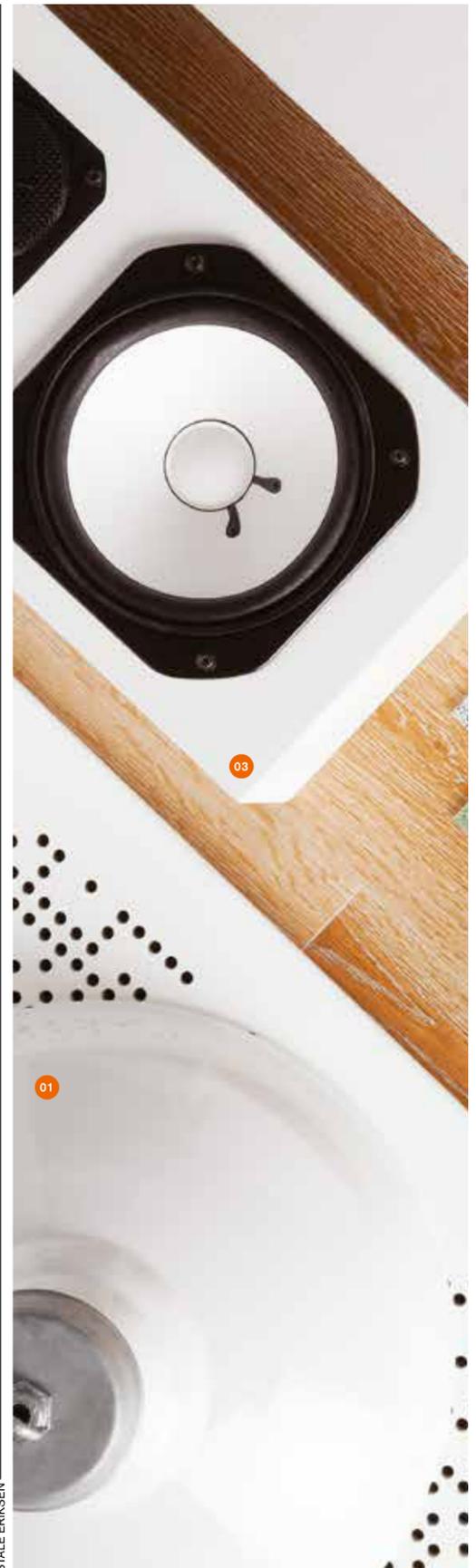
Sprayed finish, 30 per cent sheen, RAL 9016

www.rpgeurope.com

15. Flooring

Limed by Galleria Elite

www.ukflooringdirect.co.uk



STÅLE ERIKSEN

