

TAKING A SHOT

3 Years Plus \$100M

Even with 16 stories worth of recording studios and student dorms constructed into 155,000 square feet, John Storyk says Berklee College of Music still didn't have enough room to include all the amenities programs directors wanted in its new 160 Massachusetts Avenue building. "Programming was a long process and involved many people and many heads," says Storyk, cofounder, architect and acoustician of Walters-Storyk Design Group. "Everyone wanted more than we had room for." However, three years and \$100 million later, Storyk says the new building has amped up the way the college teaches its students and expanded its class repertoire. While most of the building's floors are student rooms, it also includes 21,400 square feet of cafeteria and performance space, and two basement floors loaded with production studios and equipment.



Project Objectives

"There was a shortage of practice rooms and we needed new studios," says Storyk. "We had studios, but not at this building." He adds that the college wanted to create an updated, contemporary space for its students, faculty and staff, especially with the new cafeteria/performance room. "The old [cafe] space was terrible," he says. "We [now built] a first class student cafe with a real ability to perform. The cafe has incredible sound." Meanwhile, the sheer size of the project was a challenge, he says. "To have this many studios and dorms in the middle of Boston. It's a perfect storm of craziness." Judy Elliot-Brown, the integrator and client project manager for Berklee's building project, says one of her team's biggest challenges was managing construction. For one part of the installation, the construction crew planted a crane in the middle of the building through to the sub-basement level, which reduced space to work. "The crane's footprint ran through the mastering room, smack through the main control room on the top floor," she says. "We had no room."

Inside the Musician's Studio

Studio 1 is designed to accommodate as many as 50 orchestra members, recording/mixing suites, control rooms for classes, and two ISO Booths. Studio 2, also located on Level A, features another ISO Booth and control room. Level A also houses a Central Machine Room, which encases half of the building's "enhanced connectivity." Level B is made up of rooms catered to small ensemble recording. Studio 3 (which contains the second Central Machine Room), another ISO Booth, Live Room, and Mastering/Critical Listening Lab. Level B also has a Dubbing Stage loaded with Dolby Atmos equipment, along with ISO Booths, Overdub Booth, and Production Control Suite. The building's new studios enable the college to have space for extended teaching tracks, such as dubbing/film mixing and orchestral recording/composition/scoring. Storyk, who is also a visiting professor at Berklee, says that while many of the rooms contain similar equipment, they were crafted to hold classes and to have their own signature. "They're teaching rooms, but each one has a slightly different flavor," he says.



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