

projects



photo by Alex Maguire/REX Features

ocean music venue

Location: London, England

Seat Count: 2100

Project Type: Renovation

Opening: 2001

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AD Scope: Acoustics | A/V Systems

Hailed by Time Out Magazine as “the most technologically advanced music venue in the world,” Ocean opened in March 2001, in London’s Hackney cultural quarter. Ocean is all about celebrating live music. Ocean’s three performance spaces (Ocean 1, 2 and 3) offer artists and audiences a range of performance environments. The sound system in Ocean 1—capable of producing the sound levels required by high-energy music—is a left/center/right system with delay speakers for the balcony. Additional speakers are suspended from the balcony face and aimed at the main floor, so the people on the floor are surrounded by music while dancing.

The building was formerly a 1920’s Methodist hall. The original ceiling in Ocean was shaped like a barrel. AD changed the shape of the ceiling with custom panels which scatter the sound. The panels also open up—like giant clams—to expose sound absorbing surfaces on the inside. A side benefit to the acoustic adjustment is the excellent acoustical separation between the on-stage monitor mix and the front-of-house mix. AD also designed a low-noise ventilation system for the room. This can be operated at low volume (for a nonsmoking, seated audience) or high-volume (for a smoking, standing audience). Even at high volume, the ventilation system is quiet.