

projects



the vatican

Client: The Vatican

Location: Vatican City State, Italy

Project Type: Renovation

Opening: 2000

AD Scope: Audio

Millions flock to the Vatican each year to attend masses and celebrations held in St. Peter's Square, the main entryway to the basilica. The square, reported to be built over the tomb of the martyred Apostle Peter, measures more than 750 feet long and 400 feet wide, and thus, forms a long rectangle, bowed outward in its middle section, as it leads to the basilica.

Obviously, the importance of quality sound reinforcement in the square is paramount. Often, more than 150,000 attend a single mass, and not being able to clearly hear the words of faith and inspiration would be a major disappointment.

The new audio system needed to cover hundreds of thousands of square feet of space with optimum vocal intelligibility. Virtually all surfaces surrounding, and in some cases, in the midst of the all-outdoor area are stone, marble, brick and just about every other type of non-friendly acoustical material. Also, the Vatican architectural staff was adamant that any new system conform to strict aesthetic guidelines. Specifically, loudspeakers needed to be few in number and as small as possible. Extreme ease of use for system operators and the provision of a number of configurations that could be quickly and conveniently enacted to meet varying needs was also desired.

ACOUSTIC DIMENSIONS