

Reach for the sky

Satellite broadcaster Sky has implemented an ambitious scheme for efficient yet attractive lighting at its student studio



Sky is letting schoolchildren and students write, shoot and edit their own TV reports in a special studio at the company's new headquarters in West London. And the Sky Skills Studio is lit exclusively by LEDs.

The design brief specified that the lighting had to be based on energy-efficient sources but still create a 'wow' factor. David Atkinson Lighting Design (DALD) worked closely with branding agency RPM throughout the design process.

There are four TV studios with green screens, a central production space and a dressing room.

Dressing in style

To give the dressing room a showbiz feel, four internally illuminated stars in vibrant colours are mounted on the walls. The principal light source in the space is a large landscape vanity mirror surrounded by an array of LED golfball lamps. There are also two giant anglepoise lamps.

The main production space consists of a suspended light box that is backlit by strings of colour-changing RGB LEDs. A truss that surrounds the light box supports a series of RGB automated fittings that are programmed to wash the central floor

The four studios are glazed and edge lit with RGBA LED strips from the top and bottom

in a contrasting colour to give the space a dramatic feel. The central TX control desk is lit by high-intensity LED fittings.

The four studios around the perimeter are glazed and edge lit with RGBA LED strips from the top and the bottom of the glazing. A matrix of dots printed on the inside face of the glass enables the light to wash the glazing and creates an opalescent quality, masking the view into the studios. Dimming the lighting to the glazing lets the audience see in.

Picture perfect

Each studio is equipped with LED lighting for the green screen space. Good lighting is essential to capture good quality high-definition pictures and it has been balanced accordingly.

Architectural feature lighting includes RGB LED strips in the walls, control desks and floating ceilings above the edit suites. Task lighting comes from recessed LED downlights set into suspended panels.

Various lighting sequences have been programmed into a DMX replay unit that is triggered by the show control system.

Lighting ties together all the elements at Sky Skills Studios, creating an inspiring visual experience. 

LIGHTING SUPPLIERS AC Special Projects, Commercial Lighting Systems, Gekko, GLP, Jands, LTH SquareLED MJ Lighting, Osram, Reggiani, Robe, Spanlite, Spotlight, Zero 88



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