



# SKY SKILLS STUDIOS

Middlesex, UK

*Branding agency RPM recently completed the design for SkySkills Studios, a free interactive learning experience set at BSkyb new sustainable headquarters in West London. The Sky Skills Studio interactive centre allows a unique opportunity for students to write, shoot and edit their own television reports.*

**Client:** BSkyb

**Designers:** RPM

**Lighting Consultant:** David Atkinson Lighting Design (DALD)

**Lighting Assistant:** Stewart Parker

**Lighting Installer:** LSI Projects

**Lighting Suppliers:** A.C Special Projects, Robe, Commercial Lighting Systems, Gekko, GLP, Jands, LTH SquareLED MJ Lighting, Osram, Reggiani, Spanlite, Spotlight, Zero 88

**Picture Credits:** RPM / BSkyb



David Atkinson Lighting Design (DALD) was contracted early into the project, as the lighting plays an extremely important integral part in this dynamic immersive experience. DALD worked closely alongside the RPM design team throughout the design process, with ongoing lighting tests and trials.

Sky's design brief was quite clear that the lighting design had to be based on energy efficiency, sustainable sources with flexibility yet maintaining the 'WOW' factor within the scheme.

#### *Different Spaces of the Studio*

The Sky Skills Studios space comprises four interactive TV studios with green screens, a central production space and a dressing room.

To give the dressing room a sense of 'Showbiz' four internally illuminated stars in vibrant brand colours are mounted off the walls, with the main light source for the space coming from a large landscape vanity mirror surrounded by an array of LED golf ball lamps. Additional lighting for the space comes from two giant 'anglepoise' fittings.





The central core production space consists of a suspended light box, which is backlit by strings of RGB LED, which is DMX-controlled over several channels, this enables the lighting to morph through varying hues of colour, linked in with the Sky corporate spectrum colour scheme.

Offset from the central Light box, a lighting truss supports a series of RGB automated fixtures, which are programmed to wash the central floor in vibrant contrasting hues of colour, which helps add a dramatic TV studio, feel to the space. The central TX control desk is downlit by high intensity LED fixtures, which is sequenced into the lighting program to highlight the XT operator.

The four interactive studios around the perimeter of the space are glazed and edge-lit with RGBA LED strips from the top and the bottom of the glazing. A printed dot matrix on the internal face of the glass enables the light to wash the glazing in varying hues of colour and creates an opalescent quality that helps to mask the initial view into the interactive studios. By simply fading out the lighting to the glazing, it allows the audience to view into the studios.

Each studio is fully equipped with energy efficient LED-based light sources for lighting of the green screen space, which includes soft lights & Fresnel key and back lights. The studio lighting is critical to the quality of the HD camera images and balanced accordingly.





Architectural feature lighting includes RGB LED strips set into the walls, control desks and floating ceilings above the individual interactive edit suites. General task lighting to the edit suites comes from recessed LED down lights set into suspended panels.

The lighting has been intrinsically pre-programmed for the various sequences onto a DMX replay unit, which in turn is triggered by the audiovisual show control system.

By utilising entirely LED light sources, the lighting design has adhered closely to the energy conservation and sustainability requirement.

The lighting design for Sky Skills Studios helps tie all of the interactivity and audiovisual elements together, helping to make this a most inspiring visual experience.

