

Clocking: Why It Matters * Lou Reed Tribute * Classic Liz Phair * Jazz Fest 2014

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A COLLECTION OF THIS YEAR'S
HOTTEST NEW STUDIOS

BY BARBARA SCHULTZ



Photo: Lucia De Giovanni for Think Loud Studios

↑ **On the Cover:** Think Loud Studios, York, Pa.

"As a lifelong musician, producer and engineer, I have to say, Think Loud Studios is the ultimate reward for all those years of hard work and dedication," says Chad Taylor, best known as the lead guitarist for the band LIVE. Taylor and bandmates Patrick Dahlheimer (bass), Chad Gracey (drums) and Chris Shinn (vocals) co-own this creative, multi-use showplace, which was built into a 100-plus-year-old landmark building full of vintage touches and natural light.

The landmark status of the structure, a former printing house, created some obstacles for Horacio Malvicino, whose Malvicino Design Group provided the acoustical and spatial design for the facility. "We had to keep the structure and existing windows as they were," Malvicino explains. "But there are train tracks 100 feet away, and an SPL reading in the room

showed the locomotive horns at 95 dB."

Anderson Windows created custom double-paned windows for the exterior of the existing ones, and Soundproof Doors manufactured 5-inch-thick windows for the interior side. "The city approved the design, but they wanted us to be able to open them, so Randy Brown from Soundproof Doors engineered a special hinge system so they would open but not cave with the weight."

Malvicino balanced all that reflective glass with movable panels and clouds that offer variable acoustics in the main tracking room and Studio B, which doubles as a rehearsal space. The treatments were manufactured by Veronica Bernal for TADI.

City requirements may have proved challenging for the



Baum Haus → Studios, Houston, Texas

Acoustical and architectural design for this ground-up facility were created by Martin Pilchner of Pilchner Schoustal International, with engineering/technical infrastructure by Skip Burrows of Sunrise Recording Services. Included are a large control room and live room, three isolation booths with varying acoustics, machine room and numerous client amenities. Among the inventive acoustical treatments is the elaborate organic tree branch diffuser that Pilchner designed for the rear wall of the control room. The tracking room offers flexible acoustic elements that vary decay times by more than a second. Featured equipment at Baum Haus includes a 48-channel Wunder console and a CLASP system.



Photos: Skip Burrows

acoustician, but Taylor says local government is a big reason his "ultimate reward" got built. "Our governor, Tom Corbett, and his wife, Susan, stand up for the arts in a way that I've hardly seen," Taylor says. "The arts initiative our state government has set up [with tax incentives and benefits] for artists allowed LIVE to come back to our hometown of York."

All of the audio equipment in LIVE's new studio was provided by GC Pro, whose account manager Billy Walker provided on-site support during the installation, while system integration was done by MDG's Inaki Prades Cardenas. Control room A offers an SSL Duality, Pro Tools HDX 3 and Ocean Way main monitors; the B room includes an Avid Control Surface, Pro Tools HDX 2 and Ocean Way AS-1 mains.

The building also houses a studio kitchen, lounge, offices, residential accommodations, gym and spa, a private theater and a rooftop deck.

"We told Horacio that the view from Studio A, overlooking the rooftops and church steeples of York, inspires us as artists," Taylor says. "The vaulted ceilings in these rooms inspire us. We gave him some challenges on the architectural side and the audio side, but he was able to give us everything we asked for, and we were able to get brilliant sounds right off the bat."

↓ Windmark Studios, Santa Monica, Calif.



Photo: Jangyong Nagal Photography

After acquiring Windmark Studios, musician/composer Michael Marquart brought in Peter Gruenoisen of studio bau:ton and nonzero\ architecture to design a new recording suite comprising a control room, large tracking room and vocal booth. Wood and fabric finishes, and color-changing LED lighting were used in this vintage-inspired space, which includes one of four existing Neve A4310-12 CBS Sony custom consoles in the world, an Ampex 16-track 2-inch machine formerly owned by Les Paul, and a prized collection of outboard gear and mics.