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INDIANA EXCELLENCE

WORLD-RENOWNED SCHOOL OF MUSIC ADDS WORLD-CLASS STUDIO

The audio engineering faculty, with Department Chair Konrad Strauss, seated and clockwise from left, Jacob Besser, D. James Trigg, Mark Hood, Michael Stucker, Fallon Stillman



Mexico's Banda Sinfónica del Tlalnepantla in session in TEC's new Studio A, a scoring room with variable acoustics and space to accommodate groups of up to 50 musicians.

TEC EXPANSION

New Studios From the Malvicino Design Group Boost Audio Education in Mexico

BY BARBARA SCHULTZ

The Monterrey Institute of Technology is a 31-campus network of higher-education throughout Mexico. TEC, as it is commonly called, boasts numerous highly regarded programs, including an award-winning school of medicine, *The Economist's* top-rated business school in Mexico, and many more. TEC is constantly growing and upgrading to meet the needs of its students, and recently the school's Recording Arts program has added a number of state-of-the-art studio facilities.

New York-based studio designer Horacio Malvicino has designed studios for four TEC campuses in four different cities: Monterrey, Mexico City, Santa Fe and, most recently, State of Mexico (Estado de Mexico), northeast of the capital.

"They already had the program on the State of Mexico campus, but they just had two tiny studios with an older Tascam console and an old

8-track, half-inch tape machine," Malvicino says. "They started the program two years ago, and they were busing students to [the Mexico City] campus about half an hour away to use their studios, but the traffic in Mexico City is insane—compared to it, New York is a piece of cake. People started moving to the other campus because they didn't have a studio. So they asked us to rush to get these new studios done in eight months, from scratch."

The State of Mexico's new studios went online last September; like many high-end studios within educational facilities in the U.S., they're designed to serve student projects and instruction, as well as occasional live performances and commercial clients. Included is the large 23x20-foot Control Room A, which is connected to a 40x260-foot scoring studio, with a 13x8 iso booth and variable acoustics, that can accommodate up to 50 musicians.

THE TEC STUDIOS TEAM

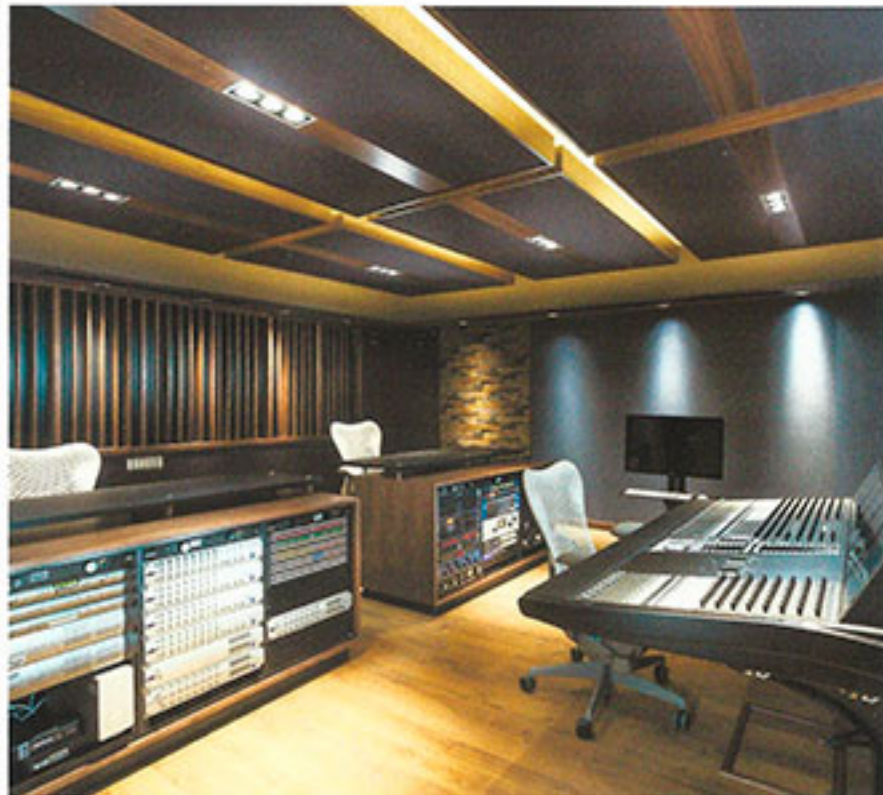
Designer/Acoustician:
Horacio Malvicino The Malvicino Design Group

System Integration: Inake Prades Cardenas

General Contractors: Veronica Vernal Reyes
and Israel Zermeno

Studio Manager/Program Director:
Francisco Javier Ortiz Cerecedo

Equipment Provider: Vari International



Studio A is the TEC State of Mexico campus' flagship. Major equipment in Control Room A includes a 32-fader Euphonix Fusion console, three Neve 1073 modules, Ocean Way HR-3 main monitors powered by QSC amplifiers, and Pro Tools HDX-2 system.



The 20 x 14-foot Production Studio 1 adjoins control rooms 1 and 2. Control Room 3 (20 x 20 feet) also adjoins Production Studio 2. A third tracking space (20 x 8 feet) is situated between Production Control Rooms 3 and 4.

Adjacent to Studio 1, Production Control Room 1 includes an Avid C-24 control surface and Pro Tools HD Native. Monitoring is via Adam Audio S4X-H loudspeakers. Outboard gear includes a Bricasti M-7 Stereo Reverb Processor and Universal Audio 1176.

Malvicino also designed four identical 15x18 production studios, which share two tracking rooms and a central machine room between them. All of the studios are interconnected with audio and video tielines, as well as Dante networking. "In all of the smaller rooms, we used the same control room layout and acoustics, but with different control surfaces," Malvicino explains. "And it's the same with studio monitors and outboard gear—each room is different."

The idea is that students will not only gain experience using a variety of platforms that they may encounter in other studios, but also, because the rooms are acoustically identical, they will have the opportunity to compare the sonics that different pieces of gear impart.

At press time, Malvicino was designing new studios for a fifth TEC campus—the one situated in Guadalajara. "In Mexico, the music business is actually booming," Malvicino says. "People buy CDs there and download music. So there is a demand for more people to do studio work." ■

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Production Studio 3 is shared by Control Rooms 3 and 4. Production Control Room 3 features an API 3208, while the identical Production Control Room 4 offers an SSL Nucleus.



Production Control Room 3