



CHI BANGKOK



BANGKOK, THAILAND
ASIA-PACIFIC

Bed Supperclub has been reborn under the new leadership of Daryl Scott, as CHI Bangkok. Jimmie Wing tells all of the resurrection located on Soi Sukhumvit 13.

Bangkok's iconic Bed Supperclub closed at the end of August in 2013 after more than 10 years of operation, however, not before the farewell event went off with a bang. The owners had insisted that Daryl Scott - a well-known nightclub designer on the Bangkok scene - who was MC'ing the closing party, dress as a bride, but what they didn't know was that he was concealing a blood-covered fake fetus - complete with umbilical cord - beneath the dress and as the night was drawing to a close, he launched it into the shocked audience. It took a few days for the birth to register and a particular thought to

seep into Daryl's mind: "Why not just move the entire structure to another location?" Almost seven weeks later, under the supervision of Daryl and Noom Chuchai, the chief engineer, chief contractor and interior design wizard who has been bringing Daryl's insane ideas to life for the past 15 years, old Bed had been dismembered, numbered and colour coded, and moved to an aircraft hangar in outer Bangkok. Ironically, by the time they had discovered a new location just a few hundred metres away on Soi Sukhumvit 13, that

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land owner had also purchased the plot on which Bed Supperclub had been established.

There was no turning back now and how could Daryl resist the allure of opening a venue on Soi 13? "I wanted to create the kind of club I'd seen so many times in Chinese and Japanese kung-fu and gangster movies but had never actually found in real life. Well now we have it," he said. Reanimation began in early 2015, after a prior five months of negotiating bureaucracy that included meeting building and safety standards that had changed drastically since construction of the



original venue 14 years ago. "Nowadays everything that's going to be built requires six signatures. We had to dig 60 pilings 21-metres deep to meet Bangkok's current building standards," explained Daryl.

Despite all these challenges, this was still more cost effective than building from scratch, plus there was the invaluable branding, which resulted from Bed Supperclub's long-standing reputation. According to local media, 'in terms of aesthetic innovativeness and originality, no other venue in Bangkok comes close'. Advised by a mysterious Chinese / Thai feng shui master, a dragon winds itself through the entire venue, its head overlooking the restaurant entrance instead of facing it, observing its tail and diving in and out of the washrooms. Infact, Chinese Feng shui has had such an effect on CHI that Daryl and his team have coined the term 'Funk Shui'.

As well as meeting building standards and exceeding safety requirements, ponderous thought, planning, time and money went into sound insulation. Six inches of biofoam, four inches of cellulose fibre, a two-inch air gap, then a layer of acoustic board encases the entire structure. Reportedly, this is Thailand's most advanced club sound insulation to

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date, so it will be interesting to see how it fares with CHI's spirited neighbours.

The shape of the building has been causing major acoustic challenges for a long time so, based on a long-standing and friendly relationship, Daryl got in touch with Fuzion Far East to inspect what audio gear was left over from Bed Supperclub to ascertain what could be salvaged and refurbished.

Benjamin Walters, Fuzion's Project Manager, revealed: "With four Nexo PS 15R2's needing nothing more than a couple of re cones and a bunch of MC2 amplifiers, we had a good starting point and a major chunk of the budget freed up.

"We added not two but three LS 18's to the club side and powered them along with the PS15's using a Nexo NX 4x4. After the soft opening, it was pretty clear Daryl needed to up the sound dampening".

The building has two main areas, a spacious restaurant and a large club room. Interestingly, Benjamin elected to run the restaurant in mono because a stereo install would have resulted in only one sweet spot around the centre of the room. "Stereo really is pointless in an area like the restaurant at CHI. You would only get the stereo image for just a few people," explained Benjamin. Additionally, most



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

SOUND

RESTAURANT: 2 x Quest HPI 110 loudspeaker; 4 x Quest HPI 25 loudspeaker; 3 x Quest HPI 12 loudspeaker; 4 x Quest MS601 monitor; 4 x Quest BQM450A DJ monitor; 1 x Work Zenith 600 amplifier; 2 x MC2 Audio E45 amplifier
CLUB: 4 x Nexco PS15R2 loudspeaker; 2 x Nexco PS10 loudspeaker; 2 x Nexco RS.18-PI Raysub 18 subwoofer; 1 x Nexco NXAMP4x4C powered digital TD controller; 1 x Nexco PS10 UTD-V3 stereo TD controller; 1 x Symetrix Solus 8 Open architecture DSP; 2 x Symetrix Arc ze 8 character backlit display; 1 x Work WSE 81 Start sequencer; 1 x Fuzion 19-inch rackmount SPL metre

LIGHTING & VISUAL

RESTAURANT: 4 x Acme Samba moving head; 1 x Acme LED Par Can 64; 8 x Epson EB-X36 projector; Resolume Arena VJ software
CLUB: 4 x Acme XP Series moving head; 1 x Acme LED Par Can 64

www.facebook.com/ChiUltralounge/

of the loudspeakers are placed on just one side of the room to create the ambience required for dining, yet the system is still adaptable for more boisterous after dining events.

"CHI is a show piece for us," he continued. "The entire restaurant being Quest, the central processing being handled by a Symetrix Solus 8 and the club side being purely Nexco."

Special thanks for the install go to Bond Saknarong Jumnonglert of AL Sound Production and Pok Sutat Kohkhat of Mr Team Productions, for tuning.

Visually, CHI is so extraordinary that guests get stiff necks from ogling the vast 3D video mapped projections on the ceiling. To achieve this, Dutchman Wesley Bruijs of Kolor Kontrast was brought onboard based on his previous experience working with Daryl Wesley and his team have carried out several 3D projection mapping projects and much of the CHI image content was custom created by the Kolor Kontrast team. Wesley explained the process: "We developed the 3D dragon based on the sculpture of the 'imperial dragon' hanging inside CHI. We also mimicked the curvature of the dome into other visuals, such as the opening / collapsing of the roof. Besides that we made wire frame mountains, which gives guests the feeling of flying through another world. And we make the ceiling come to life using 3D animation with movements which give the illusion that the roof has depth and seems to move." One of Wesley's biggest challenges was

working on an asymmetrical surface. To the common observer, the interior may appear to be symmetrical but it isn't. "The roof is not a perfect dome but more an egg shape and the positions - where the projectors are mounted - are at a different height on each side as well. So, we had to align off centre in order to cover the maximum area we could on the roof," he said.

His first on site meeting was around late July 2015, work started in September and everything was up and running just in time for the soft opening on Christmas Eve.

According to Wesley, Epson EB-X36 projectors were selected for a number of reasons: high contrast with medium brightness; a standard lens that enables full coverage of the total square metres to be projected upon within the limited distance; and limited installation space to angle them. And, of course, budget was a deciding factor.

Resolume Arena VJ software was also used. "It's my personal favourite and I've been using it since 12 years ago when I first started VJ-ing. The auto pilot settings range for this permanent installation is one of the reasons we chose this software. Also the user friendliness and, of course, the mapping with soft edge possibilities within Arena."

Wesley cut his teeth back in The Netherlands while still in college. VJ-ing as a side project. Later working for several audiovisual studios and then creating his own company with a friend. After



• Above
The club area.

moving to Thailand, he became more focussed on 3D video mapping, saw that the local market was still developing and has been a major part of its progress within the Bangkok scene ever since. In the next few months, Wesley and his Kolor Contrast team will update and extend the content at CHI to make the dining and party experience even more immersive.

With a total surface of around 82 sq metres this is one of the biggest permanent projector based 3D video mapping installations in Thailand.

Another Dutchman contributed one of the finishing touches to CHI's stunning decor, the acclaimed painter Peter Klashorst has created a vivid seven metre mural covering the exterior of the washrooms.

Meanwhile in the club room, 33 LED flameless votive candles behind the DJ console create such a pleasant ambience

it would have been a shame to overwhelm it all with an overabundance of intelligent lighting. That, together with the gob smacking projections in the restaurant, explained why Daryl decided to go with minimal disco lighting. "It's all Acme," said Daryl. Even though the votive candles are flameless, they are real wax. "We had to modify them and buy 33 special power supplies to link them all together so they can all be turned off all at once instead of climbing up each morning to turn them off individually." A unique visual aspect of CHI's exterior goes unnoticed by the casual observer because it's only apparent by its absence. The black spaghetti tangle of electricity cabling strung dangling in front of most urban structures is one of Thailand's well known eyesores. For a minimal investment, all CHI's cabling has been placed underground.

CHI is Thailand's first Diageo club and

guests can enjoy a wide range of exotic and traditional cocktails concocted by in-house mixologists selected by Daryl himself. He added: "It's extremely important that people understand CHI is not a nightclub as such, but a supperclub. It's a place where people can come and enjoy amazing food." And view five priceless warrior fish casually gazing back at them from a tank behind the bar.

Can we expect the bride to return any time soon? "Oh, she already has," Daryl declared. "We're giving birth to a sister venue that will be one of the hottest beach clubs in Asia. CHI Phuket." CHI Bangkok is a venue that, mainly thanks to the original concepts and ideas of Daryl Scott, now bears absolutely no resemblance to the 'original' Bed Supperclub. But CHI Phuket will have something in common with Amsterdam Supperclub - a Void sound system. ●

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