Martin Audio CDD for Obvio Cocktail Bar

Picture: Jason Varney



Under his company ear NETWORKS, NYC-based Kurt Schlossberg has been specifying exclusively Martin Audio sound systems in Time Out Markets around the world for a number of years. But recently he undertook his first project for Chilean-born restaurateur Juan Santa Cruz, as Obvio joined the operator's other upmarket establishments, including two in Central London's trendy Mayfair and Notting Hill areas.

His latest modern supper club and cocktail bar - named Obvio - is right on his own Manhattan doorstep, and again it is an exclusive Martin Audio house, taking advantage of the CDD series' unique coaxial differential dispersion technology. "Juan only does super exclusive places, and over Zoom he told me about this little jewel box that he was creating in New York," said Schlossberg. "He wanted the most discreet high performing system that could be colour matched, and which could double as triple A background as well as triple A foreground. I said there's really only one product I would put in there!"

Once again the installer recommended CDD as he has for many venues since first discovering them on a visit to the ISE Show in Amsterdam, soon after the series was

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launched in 2015. “I walked into the [Martin Audio] demo room,” he said, “and I was immediately blown away. Although I have the pick of the litter when it comes to commercial audio, Martin Audio is the only high-end brand I use - it is literally the best of the best of what it is and is my ‘go to’ for all critical path foreground music.”

Explaining further, he said, “When you can take CDD6 and CDD8 and mix them with the punchy subs they are matched to, you get an experience that makes you prouder in a commercial environment than you would be in your own listening room. And that’s something I’ve not been able to replicate from any other manufacturer.”

And Kurt Schlossberg should know, with four decades in audio (analogue-into-digital), architecture, planning and playlist curating under his belt — skills that were brought to bear at Obvio. “Because a lot of the walls and panelling are rounded it has a very cocoon like feeling and so I worked closely with the architects … and felt good to be part of the architectural process again.”

Matching the speakers to the lighter tone of the wall panelling, four CDD6s are wall-mounted towards the front of the building, with eight CDD8 at the front, where punchier sound is focused over the dance area. Softer background music during the daytime trading is followed by a substantial hike in SPL after dark, when DJs take to the Pioneer CDJs. This is enhanced by a single SXC115 “which lives above the amoebic shape over the bar, and completely out of sight,” as he puts it. The quality of the sound system has generally received favourable reviews. “In fact it’s proven to be quite a hit,” Kurt Schlossberg exclaims in conclusion.

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