

BEST NEW ...

MAZE, MIAMI

Any club that names a night after its speaker system has probably got its priorities straight. Fridays at Maze are called Funktion, in tribute, one would think, to their first-in-the-US Dance Stack four-way speaker systems from UK company Funktion-One. These three-piece stacks, installed by Sound Investment's Dan Agne, look like millennial Berthas and were built for dance music. Owners Rich Van de Boom and Stacy Gallowhur outfitted the rest of the 16,000-square-foot dance space with Coemar lighting, Allen & Heath's new V6 rotary mixer, seven nitrogen jets, plus



in burgundy and charcoal (The Room) also attached. Funktion Fridays feature progressive and trance, Rize Saturdays are gay and tribal, Breakfast Club starts at 8 am on Sundays and Retrowave takes over with '80s classics at night, and all services are rendered without what club management calls "South Beach attitude." Well whatever might *that be?* – KLM

MODA, CLEVELAND

If you build it... well, you know. The gentlemen behind the high-polish Moda (translation: "style") knew that with just a fluidly gorgeous design, concert-style line array speaker system, cone-shaped praise-the-DJ booth, and some serious lights, lasers, fog, and nitrogen jets, they could lure some big-time jocks to Ohio. And lured they were: Paul Oakenfold opened the club on October 12, and since then guys like Deep Dish and Saeed & Palash have graced the cone. But the touring DJs are just the beginning: Watching patrons' faces when they first part the velvet



Thomas & Thomas Photography

curtain that separates the entryway from the dancefloor tells the rest of the story. Forget "OK for Cleveland," Moda rivals any American club when it comes to aesthetics. From the Easter-colored Mondrian-esque wall painting facing the coat check to the chilled strawberries that patrons on the sequestered VIP level are invited to nibble, every inch of the single-room club is stylized. And with a NEXO speaker system, lights from Elation, Rane and Pioneer in the DJ booth, and a Kryogenifex system, it's got substance to back up all that *moda*. – KLM

SOUND-BAR, CHICAGO

A club that's run like an actual business? Don't turn your nose up, it's a good thing. The operation over at Sound-Bar, Chicago's glowing new "for the music" super-space, is so upright it's practically corporate. And it should be: The club is a 25,000-square-foot, multi-level, neon dream, with eight full service bars, three VIP rooms, two lounges, and a 4,000-square-foot main dancefloor. Rocco Laudizio of Slick Design designed each VIP area in different, vibrant colors (orange here, green there, and oh yes, royal purple), mixing elements of stainless steel, smoked glass, and fine European-made furniture in a minimalist setting. Howard Windmiller



of Windmiller Sound opted for a massive five-way sound system, featuring EAW Avalon speakers, custom subwoofers crafted by Jeff Johnson of Paradise Speakerworks, IQ-linked amplification from Crown and XTA processing. Lighting is a smorgasbord of Elation, Coemar, and High End Systems' really big fixtures, bouncing off a black-screen scrim system. There are two identical DJ booths, one on each floor, along with a customized portable booth that can be carted into any of the VIP rooms. All this plus a resident roster that features Chi-town's own legend Derrick Carter makes for an impressive debut on the global clubbing stage. – KLM

THERAPY, PROVIDENCE

The story of Therapy's creation involves rodent infestation, fallen angels, oppressive heat, and a "dark satanic mill." That's how installer Mark Waker of Balanced Input described the building that now houses the club, which had originally been used to service the electric trucks that moved the Providence, Rhode Island trolley car system. Abandoned for years when the Therapy team first set upon it, the building had no electricity, climate control, or running water, and work in it stretched through frigid February and steamy June and July. But even under the adverse conditions, owner Alex Tomasso's vision remained clear – he wanted a music-centered after hours spot, "London with a heavy dose of NYC," and hammered the point home with the



purchase of now-reformed "evil" New York club Limelight's infamous angel sculptures. Interior designer Kyla Coburn fixed damage wrought on the evocative pieces by literal (yet somehow metaphorical) rats, and they're flying again, around the octagonal truss conceived by Euphoric Lighting's Brian Jay, which features fixtures from Elation, strobes from Diversitronics and Martin, and fog from Jem. Waker's powerful system consists of speakers from Martin Audio and power from Crest, and gets worked regularly by the East Coast's best underground house jocks. And if you think that Providence couldn't possibly match New York in terms of godless dankness, check this – the club's lower level is made up of four 10-foot wide tunnels. Mommy? – KLM