

BEST LIGHTING



CROBAR CHICAGO, SJ LIGHTING

The core of SJ Lighting principle Steve Lieberman's design for crobar's revamped Chicago location is its customized truss system from TomCat. It's in a rib cage configuration, with a 30-foot spine that runs from the two farthest points of the dancefloor, and six curved "ribs" of truss coming off of it. At their ends, the ribs feature custom plates with pipes at their bottoms, which allowed Lieberman to hang moving lights directly off them. Crobar's intelligent arsenal contains 12 Martin Professional MAC 550s, and four vintage High End Systems Emulators (which the club already had). Eighteen Par 46's provide truss-toning (a "huge scenic element" says Lieberman), and the 16 Source Four Pars with narrow lenses are for general dancefloor wash, to "put some beamage in the air." Special effect lighting includes Color Kinetics ColorBlasts to light the building's façade, iCoves for the nooks and crannies, eight Martin Atomic 3000 strobes, and six-way audience blinders. "The strobes are obviously to cause epileptic seizures, and the audience blinders are to make your eyeballs bleed," says Lieberman matter-of-factly. "There's a difference." — KLM



HUSH HOUSTON, CREATIVE PRODUCTION & DESIGN

The certifiably mammoth Martin Professional lighting system at Hush spreads over the entire 25,000-square-foot club, from the Architectural Exterior 200 color changers outside, to the FiberSource CMY 150 built into a wrap-around sofa in the entryway, to the MiniMAC Maestro projecting corporate logos in the upper bar. But the club's centerpiece, lighting-wise and in general, is the intimidating "spider truss," hanging 42 feet above the 2,300-square-foot dancefloor, but able to unfold and lower all the way to the ground. Lined with 240 color-changing LED sticks, it bears a stockroom full of fixtures, including Atomic 3000 strobes, Wizards, MAC 2000 Profiles, MAC 600, MAC 500, and RoboColor Pro 400s for warming. Martin's Dave Chesal and co-lighting designer Justin Jenkins used the Martin ShowDesigner program to create 3-D visualizations of the truss before a light was ever hung. The huge, shuddering, light-spewing piece is as much HR Geiger as it is a techno tarantula, and pushes the already overwhelming experience that is Hush over the edge. — KLM

ROXY NEW YORK, CUSTOM LIGHTING

Roxy proves you don't need the latest to be the greatest. Derek Vasquez of Custom Lighting is a fixture himself at Roxy, installing, running, and maintaining their lighting system for almost 20 years. And during that time he's learned that it's quality, not necessarily newness, that counts. Vasquez combines the latest in lights, like Coemar's new iSpot 575, with classics like the company's Venus and High End Systems' Intellabeam. "I don't have to have the newest things in here, and I could care less. I like to mix old with new," says Vasquez. "For example, I have the first Intellabeams, and they have mirrors that move faster than any other mirror fixture." And Vasquez prides himself on delivering a customized light show for each party that the club hosts. "I come in here every week. I clean the fixtures out; I change gobos. I put a lot of custom gobos in for special parties. My light show changes from week to week. It's mainly about operation and programming." —LG



SENSES MEMPHIS, SOUND STAGE SYSTEMS

Sound Stage Systems, Martin Professional and club designers Jones Baker got together to make the opening of Senses, in December 2003, a blazing evening. The multi-faceted space, the first of its kind in the Blues-bound city, combines a martini lounge, huge dancefloor, ultra lounge, courtyard, and monochromatic Orange Bar, all with the latest in Martin Professional's lighting arsenal. Run by LightJockey, Senses is awash with 12 Martin MAC 300 washes, eight MX-10 scanners, 30 MX-4 scanners, four Wizard effects fixtures, 18 MiniMACs, 14 Martin MAC 250's, strobes, foggers and an LED-backlit VIP platform. The Ultra Lounge has a ceiling of suspended circular aluminum and glass shapes backlit with 24 Alien Color Wash Fixtures. The design and materials for the club, from textured concrete to translucent furniture, only enhance the light show, making for a truly smart-looking space. —DC