



Crestron Lighting and Audio Control Solutions Enhance Ambiance at Upscale Indian Restaurant

Background

Located in the heart of New York City, Junoon is a modern Indian restaurant from Restaurateur Rajesh Bhardwaj. Junoon, which means passion, brings together a team of chefs, managers and designers that showcase the glories of centuries of Indian culture.

Junoon delivers on the promise of its moniker with an authentic, yet elegant approach to Indian cuisine. The decor is distinctly modern yet filled with respect for ancient tradition. Each element in the design has been thoughtfully orchestrated to create a feeling of elegance, comfort and luxury.

The Challenge

For Junoon, architect and designer Tarik Currimbhoy combined both Old World Indian artistry and modern elegance. The restaurant's décor includes a "basket weave" sculpture carved

from blocks of black limestone—quarried from India in the front façade. The 50-seat lounge and bar area is comprised of a cork floor, cross-cut wood walls, steam-bent wood furniture and two antique Indian swings (Jhoolas) made of hand-carved Burma teak. From there, one passes an abstract painting of the "Tree of Life," a thematic design focus of the restaurant created by New York City artist, Dolly Unithan.

Junoon owners needed an appropriate lighting system to control the vast amount of lighting inside the restaurant and music to create the atmosphere for the clientele.

"Junoon wanted the best possible sound and lighting to match the level of quality of the restaurant furnishings," said Teghkar Singh Chadha, Saga Electronics & Technologies President.

In order for Junoon to display the level of grace and elegance the owner wished to convey, an automated system was



installed to enable management and staff to remain focused on providing excellence in service.

The Solution

Crestron AV control system and Crestron lighting were selected for the new 145-seat restaurant.

“Crestron offered the only solution that could provide safe and reliable control systems for the restaurant,” added Chadha.

Tenafly, NJ-based, Saga Electronics & Technologies installed the Crestron systems. The integrator worked hand in hand with the lighting and interior designers to develop the lighting time schedule and different lighting scenes, depending on the time of day and scheduled event.

The sophisticated Crestron lighting control system allowed the lighting to be adjusted throughout the day automatically.

“The system does most of the work itself. I don’t have to train anyone or personally instruct my staff on how I want the space to look,” noted Junoon Owner, Rajesh Bhardwaj.

Systems at a Glance

The DIN-AP2 is a 2-Series control processor designed for small to medium-sized lighting and automation applications. The DIN-AP2 is extensively programmable using a suite of powerful development software and vast database of drivers and software modules by Crestron.

The Crestron lighting system schedule is based on the astronomical clock, and each day the lighting settings adjust and accommodate for the amount of sunlight coming in. The restaurant has many different lighting scenes, ranging from lunch to early evening, cocktail hour, and night dining. The various scenes create a comforting mood and accent the prism lighting on the ceilings, while showcasing the design features like the Junoon Walk.

The lighting and audio can be set simply and intuitively from the wall mounted TPS-4L touch screen.

The touch panel is password protected so only management has access to it. All the custom presets were designed to feature multiple lighting schemes that adjust in the dining and lounge areas. The client does not need to interact with the system on a daily basis but has the ability to change the settings for a special event as necessary.

Saga Electronics developed the custom module to integrate the Crestron system with the QSC Pro-Audio70v.

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The distribution of audio throughout the restaurant is possible with the Crestron C2N-VEQ4, providing a simple solution for adding high-quality volume control, equalization, and signal routing. The C2N-VEQ4 provides four individual audio channels which may be operated independently or linked for stereo operation.

A Crestron CEN-IDOC was installed to allow sharing of Apple iPod® content throughout the restaurant. By placing any iPod in the IDOC, all media from that iPod can be distributed to any or all rooms. Management can search playlists, genre, and view metadata and cover art from the touch screen. IDOC automatically syncs to the iTunes® library without having to undock and connect to a separate computer.



The music played throughout the restaurant includes contemporary Asian fusion and smooth jams to create a relaxing ambiance transcending the everyday hustle of Manhattan.

In addition to audio and lighting, the Crestron touch screen controls the outdoor digital menu board and surround sound system in the private dining room.

The X-Panel software creates a virtual Crestron touch screen allowing Junoon management to monitor and control the Crestron system from a computer.

Crestron is infinitely scalable so wiring is in place to accommodate future expansion and upgrades. The private dining room is wired for future installation of projector, projection screen and video monitor. The bar/lounge is wired for video monitors.

Benefits

"The Crestron AV and lighting solutions help meet the needs of Junoon owners and designers. The system is simple to operate and offers reliability anytime," noted Chadha.

"I laid out the lighting plan once and now it automatically adjusts to my preferences even when I'm not there," said Bhardwaj.

In addition to simple management of the Crestron system, energy savings are possible when the lights are dimmed. All lights are dimmed 50 percent at lunch and 80 percent at night, which reduces energy consumption from 40 percent to nearly 70 percent. The average life of the bulbs increases from two years without dimming to more than ten years with dimming.

"This offers Junoon considerable savings based on the amount of fixtures used in the restaurant," said Saga Electronics & Technologies Project Manager, Rajeev Nayagam.

To compliment the delicious Indian fare at Junoon, the restaurant provides top notch service and an inviting, elegant dining experience. Diners are giving Junoon dishes and ambiance rave reviews. One patron called the décor "Fantastic. Everything from the lighting to the fixtures."

"The restaurant is beautiful and the staff is very professional," added another Junoon patron. "They definitely raise the dining experience to a higher level."