



■ Spaces such as the impressive Platforma des Artes Gallery in Guimaraes can benefit from the advantages of Amina speakers and not compromise their design

areas leaving these controls accessible is a no-no, yet it's always easiest to be in the area you're adjusting the volume for now with an iPad running your own control panel design, you can roam around your venue as you please and return the iPad back to its wall dock, or wherever you choose, once done.

"It's also a very cost effective way of controlling a system with an iPad Mini at under £250, it's an incredibly attractive proposition. Couple this with its logic programming and GPIO ports, along with 3rd party control from the likes of Crestron and you're gifted with an incredibly powerful tool for audio installations of any size. Industry standard? I don't think there's any doubt."

Products available across the group mean installers have a solution for clubs, bars, hotels, restaurants, houses of worship, theatres, conference rooms gyms and a host of other commercial spaces. Harman products are distributed in the UK by **Sound Technology**.

AMINA Technologies offers some interesting options for commercial spaces and in particular when aesthetics are paramount. To underline this fact the March issue of *Essential Install* magazine witnessed Amina launch its new 'Spot the difference' campaign intended to further raise the awareness of applications for invisible loudspeakers in design-sensitive interiors. Amina says its products allow design conscious clients access to high quality audio reproduction without having to suffer any cosmetic degradation. Since creating loudspeakers designed to be rendered invisible by a 2mm final skim of plaster back in 2001, the challenge has been to make the industry and prospective customers, aware such an option even exists.

Amina's founder and MD Richard Newlove, says: "The new campaign is all part of our continuous efforts to find new ways to tell the world of the existence of audio solutions that are completely invisible in application. We are not told that such things are possible whilst at school or university. Even today therefore, after nearly 15 years of informing people about this technology, only a small percentage of the population are aware of what we can do."

The company spends a lot of its time educating

architects, interiors designers and now M&E contractors, mainly via exhibitions and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) seminars. These seminars are approved by RIBA and BIID and are presented either at design practice premises or at dealer premises as part of joint marketing initiatives with installation partners.

Amina sales and marketing director, Babs Moore, is looking to partner with more dealers country wide to educate local design companies and architects practices about invisible sound solutions. Babs says: "For example, our work with Robert Taussig (AV designer and installer, with 30 years in the business) in central London has been mutually beneficial creating a demonstration centre ideally placed for key London based influencers and their clients. Additionally this has allowed Robert Taussig to showcase the broad full-service solutions available from our installation partners, such as themselves, particularly to those who are at the early stages of a project and frequently have not considered the system levels solution. We are looking to replicate this with more integrators in other cities country wide and want to hear from anyone interested."

The string of new Amina 'spot the difference' adverts typically feature an attractively finished residential or commercial space, replicated twice. The first image features a ceiling or wall blemished by conventional gridded speakers or 'dinner plates' as Babs likes to call them. The repeated image is actually a real completed Amina project, now with clean lines and no visual disturbances in the design, showing exactly what is possible with Amina's technology.

The first advert featured shows the Platforma des Artes Gallery in Guimaraes gallery completed in 2012 in Portugal, using Amina's LFieT (Life Fidelity) series of 100 volt line transformer equipped invisible speakers especially created for large commercial spaces. The install allows visitors to focus only on the art hang in the gallery without the intrusion of speakers on the walls or in the ceilings.

Amina explains that the LFieT series has recently been upgraded to feature full Neodymium magnet drivers, making the product even lighter and easier to install single handed.

As has always been the case, the LFieT series feature high quality toroidally wound transformers keeping the weight and volume down whilst lifting audio quality to near low impedance standards.

Amina is also at pains to state the green credentials of all its invisible speaker products. In commercial spaces, especially where ceiling mounted devices are in use, the maker says the wide dispersion angle, diffuse low phase coherency waveform generated by a vibrational panel loudspeaker means it is possible to reduce the quantity of Amina speakers used by a factor of two to four when compared to conventional piston based devices required for the same coverage. Not only that, but spaces can simply be redecorated without the need to renew discoloured speaker trims and or entire speakers, meaning that the invisible speakers could see a useful life into decades. Richard concludes: "That is a massive carbon saving and one that today may even allow companies to get grant support for renovations, as regional development authorities seek to help companies financially with the adoption of low carbon products."

Fuzion is a UK distributor with several key brands including **ATEIS**, a big name in PA/VA worldwide offering its DSP audio processing products (UAPG2, LAP-AS), loudspeakers (Messenger, Orbit, SmartVOX), audio over IP (Terracom) and intercom (Magellan).

Designed for commercial applications, the UAPG2 is an expandable universal audio processor for medium-sized paging and multi-zone audio routing applications. With its powerful audio digital signal processing, the maker says the

UAPG2 can be used in demanding environments and can also be connected and controlled using an IP network or directly by PC. Advanced 24 bit A/D and D/A converters, together with 48/96kHz capable audio processing and an ADSP 21371 DSP (266 MHz SIMD SHARC Core, capable of 1596 MFLOPS peak performance), offer excellent sound quality with the lowest possible latency, says the manufacturer. The software is also described as easy to use providing all the necessary tools to set up and control both hardware and software elements. Ultimately, the UAPG2 is a comprehensive system which integrates pre-amplifier, compressor-limiter and equaliser, as well as matrix and delay functions into one unit. Useful features like automatic gain control, feedback killers, automatic microphone mixers, crossovers and automatic noise sensing are also part of the UAPG2 DSP component library. Internal processing of audio signals can be fully programmed to suit the client's application. Installers can set specific audio processing features to the various inputs and outputs from the library provided within the PC software.

Once the configuration process is completed it can be loaded into the UAPG2. All configurations can be backed-up onto PC and loaded into the UAPG2 as and when required.

Also available from Fuzion is the **CAMCO** brand which has a reputation for building powerful amps with a good level of reliability. The manufacturer offers a range of stereo and quad amps, as well as a new model (iD4) with added DSP. iD4 captures all the key elements of CAMCO's advanced amplifier designs and marries it with powerful on-board 64 bit digital



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amina®
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**invisible
loudspeakers**

t/ 01480 354390 w/ www.amina.co.uk e/ inspired@amina.co.uk

