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on the cover

The Class of 2024

By The Mix Staff

18 of the Year's Top Studios From Around the World

In our annual studio design issue, we present 18 of the most exciting new or refurbished studios to open over the past 12 months—from some of the world's top studio designers.





Sony 5020 Studios Madrid

Madrid, Ciudad Lineal, Spain

Studio Design: Horacio Malvicino,
Malvicino Design Group

Sony 5020 Studios Madrid is Spain's largest recording studio, housed in a 20,000-square-foot, three-story building that was designed to be a European version of the famous studio located in Miami. It features production rooms, recording studios and large workspaces, as well as audiovisual and photographic content creation areas, leisure and relaxation lounges and event spaces.

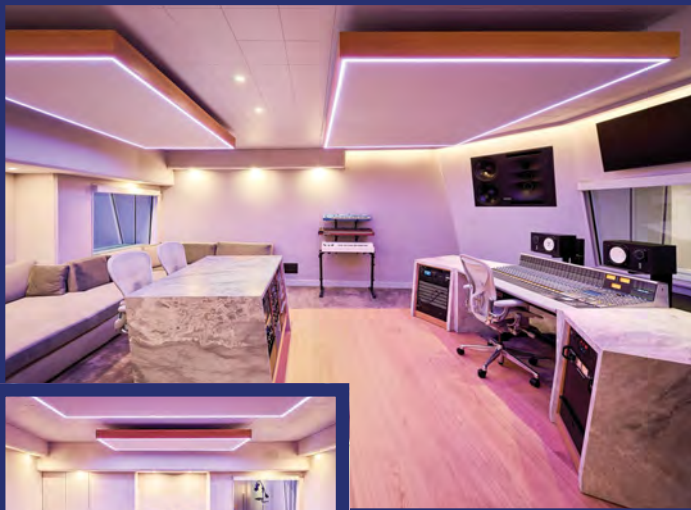
The studio is divided into three thematic zones that are designed to serve multiple purposes, the first being a collaborative floor that includes a welcome hall; two composition, recording, and production rooms; a set for audiovisual and photographic shooting; different work areas; a meeting room; a coffee area; and a lounge for rest and relaxation.

The next zone is a premium floor that features two recording studios, each with an ISO booth; a media room that can be converted into a movie room; private rest and entertainment areas; a professional kitchen; and an 85-square-meter live room that can be transformed into a space for indoor events or a dining room for catering.

Finally, the rooftop third floor is for outdoor celebrations or for anyone needing a space to relax or create. This rooftop is nearly 500 open-plan square meters with a bar, a grill, a Jospier oven, a covered pergola dining room and a stage for musical performances.

Though it opened in January 2024, 5020 Studio Madrid has been fully operational since November with the help of Sony Music. The studio represents the beginning of the 5020 Studios network, which includes Miami and Mexico City and plans to expand to other major global cities such as Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires. The goal of the network is to create a global creative community that enriches and supports artists, musicians and creators. The facilities are designed to provide a conducive environment for artists, musicians, sound engineers, music producers and collaborators to meet and create together.

This project was co-directed by Sony Music Latin Iberia and Sony Music Spain, along with Malvicino Design Group for acoustic design and system integration, EZ Acoustics for project management, Zazar Architecture, Ribba Estudio for interior design, and Diego Acosra, project director for Sony 5020.



Electric Feel LA

Los Angeles, Calif.

Studio Design: Gavin Haverstick, Haverstick Designs

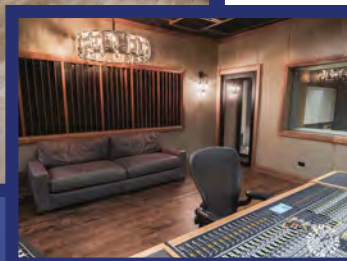
In early 2023, director of Studio Operations Danielle Engen and chief engineer Nick Mac reached out to the Haverstick Designs team of Gavin Haverstick, Oscar Otero and Tracy Roberts to coordinate a full renovation of the space with their general contractors, Pacific Southern Development. The Studio A Control Room received a monitor upgrade (soffit-mounted Genelec 1235A speakers and Genelec 7382A subwoofer) and a major reworking of the front wall soffits to improve sound isolation, accurate positioning and to ensure that the performance of the speakers was optimized. The existing stretch-fabric system was revitalized, along with new ceiling clouds constructed and installed by Nyback Builds. The versatile Studio B received upgraded wall/ceiling treatment, including a beautiful wood slat bass trap on the front wall, also built by Nyback Builds. Enhancements were also made to the lobby, iso booths and production rooms, giving this historic studio a fresh new look and sound.

Wallbanger Studios

Kannapolis, N.C.

Studio Design: Jeff Hedback, HD Acoustics

Owner David Lee's Wallbanger Studio is a 1,100-square-foot, three-room (control room, booth, and video production) studio located within a 10,000-square-foot metal building. The live room comprises roughly 3,000 square feet of the open space with multiple gobos for control. The 650-square-foot Control Room features bold black and red fabrics with natural stone segments. The warm feel of the finishes is contrasted by the striking custom metalwork desk and speaker stands built by Doug Burns. Acoustically, the room features custom low-frequency absorbers and diffusers designed by Hedback. The flexibility in room layout, sound isolation and technical wiring design allows all spaces to work in unison (including the capture of audio and high-resolution 4K video), to function independently, or any combination thereof.



Lost Boy Sound Studios

Chicago, Ill.

Studio Design: Horacio Malvicino, Malvicino Design Group

The brainchild of trader, investor and real estate developer Evan Meador, a talented guitar player and songwriter, this state-of-the-art studio located in the heart of Chicago's West Loop has a spacious sound and comfortable vibe, making artists feel at home. It features a large control room based around an API 2448 32-channel console with automation; Pro Tools HDX with Avid MTRX and UAD 2 October Satellites; and Quested VH3208 main monitors, with ATC SCM 45A/SCMo nearfields. An ample live room features MDG's variable acoustic panel system that offers a flexible acoustic environment for recording live bands. An associated iso booth with sliding doors can accommodate overdubs and a small drum kit.