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BOSE PROFESSIONAL SYSTEMS DIVISION SUCCESS STORY – LES MISSIONS ETRANGÈRES, PARIS

The venue

Situated in the heart of Paris, the Seminary of the Missions Etrangères has undergone a vast building restoration project, from the main 17th Century chapel and its crypt, to the museum, and including a complete restoration of the exterior and the adjacent buildings.

The challenge

To incorporate a sound solution capable of overcoming the usual problems associated with historic buildings, such as reverberation and acoustic feedback, all of which must be perfectly integrated with the aesthetic requirements of this historic project.

The solution

The choice of targeted loudspeakers in reverberant areas and the placement of concealed high quality cube and ceiling speakers in more confined spaces overcomes the double challenge, with evenly distributed sound and 'Virtually Invisible' loudspeakers.

The result

Balanced, clear and intelligible sound in a building where clear messaging is essential, utilising a discreet sound system that is easy to operate and which overcomes, once and for all, the problems of reverberation and feedback.

BOSE® PROFESSIONAL SYSTEMS DIVISION – COMPLETE COMMERCIAL SOLUTIONS

Customer
focus

Acoustic
design

Listen before
you buy

Project-
management

Products
and accessories

Installation
services

After sales
services





CHAPEL, CRYPT AND MUSEUM: THE TRIPLE CHALLENGE FOR SOUND

The venue	The challenge	The solution	The result
<p>Crossing the threshold of 128, Rue du Bac in the heart of Paris, one comes across unexpected calm, contrasting with the usual hustle and bustle of Paris: for this is the Seminary of the Missions Etrangères.</p> <p>“Our society of priests was founded in 1663 with the aim of promoting the church in Asia, and celebrating Catholic rites alongside</p>	<p>local culture and traditions” explains Father Gilles Reithinger. Set along-side one of the most beautiful private gardens of Paris, the 17th Century chapel has a particularly large choir, and pews to welcome more than a hundred priests for Sunday worship, as well as a small nave with a gallery, rising to a vaulted ceiling almost 20 metres high. Below ground, the large crypt is used mostly for daily</p>	<p>services, and leads directly to the Museum of the Martyrs, which has a superb collection of religious objects, relics and manuscripts.</p> <p>This magnificent complex has under-gone important cleaning and restoration work in all areas: chapel, crypt, museum and library.</p> <p>The large-scale project included the installation of a very modern sound system, capable of overcoming</p>	<p>technical constraints such as strong reverberations in the chapel, plus a major risk of microphone feedback. The chosen solution is unusual for this type of building, as the problems have been overcome using two column speakers, placed one each side of the nave. The Bose® MA12 line array speakers target sound to where it is needed, in this case straight to the</p>



THE CRYPT: QUALITY SOUND AND AESTHETIC INTEGRATION

The venue

The challenge

The solution

The result

congregation, minimising the effects of sound reflecting from the vaulted ceiling and floor, at the same time offering the highest degree of intelligibility and clarity.

In addition, twenty tiny Bose® FreeSpace® 6 speakers are set into the floor in front of each pew, with even and very clear sound delivered through small grilles. Four Bose FreeSpace 6 systems are installed in

the gallery. The number and distribution of the loudspeakers creates a clarity and evenness of sound without the need to turn the volume up too high, and this, combined with the superb directional ability of the MA12s, removes all risk of acoustic feedback, particularly with the microphone used by the priests. In the crypt the challenge was more aesthetic, with the sound system needing to be discreetly integrated

into the magnificently restored arched ceilings. Six tiny Bose FreeSpace 3 cube speakers are hidden away in small niches specially created in the ceiling and walls of the crypt. Two bass modules are concealed beneath the choir to provide low frequency support. Right next door to the crypt, the brand new Museum of

the Martyrs, with its polished wooden floor, also required an aesthetic approach, and is fitted with discreet Bose flush mounted ceiling speakers. Adjacent to the museum is a small domed room used for video presentations, and here four FreeSpace 3 cube speakers are integrated above the screen, with a concealed bass unit.



PURE INTELLIGIBLE SOUND WITHOUT REVERBERATION OR INTERFERENCE

The venue	The challenge	The solution	The result
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A project of such importance illustrates perfectly the need for a successful working partnership between those involved in the aesthetic restoration work and the consultants involved in integrating state-of-the-art technology such as a sound system.

With the technical problems inherent in cultural sites such as

this, the sound system in the chapel is a success in more ways than one. “Not only do we have quality audio, with pure sound and intelligible speech, but the system has also enabled us to overcome the problems of reverberation and, above all, acoustic feedback”, says Father Gilles Reithinger. “In addition, the system is exceptionally

easy to use and a single switch operates everything, including the microphones. The sound solution in the museum is particularly appreciated, especially when groups are visiting. The guide uses a tie-clip microphone and can be heard perfectly by everyone in the room, with no sign of feedback. As for the visual integration of the sound equipment in the building, the

notion of ‘Virtually Invisible’ begins to make a lot of sense! In fact, as well as delivering perfectly clear, pure and intelligible sound, the audio installation is as aesthetically discreet as it could possibly be in such a prestigious historic building. The sound project was a mission that has been brilliantly accomplished.”