



UNIVERSITY / NPR-AFFILIATED BROADCAST STUDIO

WXPN

New state-of-the-art broadcast facility is the result of the adaptive re-use of an existing historic building with new construction and accommodates member-supported radio station from the University of Pennsylvania, a National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate. In addition to broadcasting student and NPR programming, the station produces the daily, nationally aired show World Café. The broadcast studio is comprised of three control rooms, an on-air studio, a production control room, and two smaller live rooms.

The project stems from an effort led by Real Entertainment, Inc. in partnership with WXPN to create a new performance venue for World Café Live (WCL). Supplementing the broadcast suite, a 1,000-SF, double-height performance studio incorporated custom acoustic treatments to accommodate live broadcast and recorded performances for the World Café radio program. Every part of the new building was designed with music performance in mind, heeding both the artist and the listener.

Acoustic challenges included isolating exterior urban noise sources (nearby trains and traffic) and sound isolation for performance and recording activities. AD specified and detailed isolated room-in-room construction to limit sound transfer between rooms. The building's acoustics allows for three acts to be playing simultaneously, one downstairs, one upstairs, and one recording in the WXPN studios, without any cross contamination of noises. Large windows along the corridor leading to the entrance of the WCL venue offer the public views into the performance studio. While great for patron engagement, the windows presented challenges for sound isolation and potentially problematic acoustic reflections within the studio. AD's team carefully detailed the large windows to preserve necessary sound isolation and angled the window to support suitable room acoustics within the studio and enable quality productions for both live and recorded content.

CLIENT

University of Pennsylvania/WXPN
and Real Entertainment, Inc.

LOCATION

Philadelphia, PA

PROJECT TYPE

New Construction

COMPLETE

2005

ARCHITECT

DAS Architects and Designers

CONTACT

Jared Styles
WXPN
215.898.6677

SCOPE

Acoustics