

## RECORDING

## Class of 2015

Acoustic Design for 18 of This Year's Coolest New Studios



### On the Cover: Studio A at Studio 28, Bangkok, Thailand

Jay Kaufman & Associates designed Studio A in this ground-up, 15,000-square-foot facility, which also includes a smaller B room, kitchen and lounges. With three adjacent iso booths and an observation deck, Studio A is large enough to accommodate projects ranging from rock bands to a 75-piece orchestra.

Studio 28 is owned by Fang Riewpakorn, who is from Bangkok but received her audio education in the U.S. "After I graduated from the recording program at Full Sail University, I moved to Los Angeles and worked as an intern for almost two years," Fang says. "Then I decided to go back to Thailand and open the first version of Studio 28. It was a small studio for basic recording projects. After four years of doing mainstream and indie projects, our team decided to make a big change."

Fang says that working in L.A. studios helped define what she ultimately wanted in this latest incarnation of Studio 28. She chose Kaufman to design it, in part because she admired his work on The Bridge Recording (Glendale, Calif.).

"Fang wanted the room to be very flexible," Kaufman says. "She even had some interest in using the rooms for performance-type sessions with an audience in the room. So, we needed to have a pretty sophisticated variable acoustic system.

"The room's character was designed to be warm yet detailed, with significant diffusion, which allows the players to hear each other clearly," Kaufman continues. "To accommodate the need to control the room's reverb time, about 40 percent of the walls can be reflective or absorptive by manually moving panels. The ceiling has motorized panels, which also allows for approximately 40 percent of the surface to be hard or soft. A critical component of this design was keeping the low-frequency reverb time in balance as the absorptive panels were engaged."

Studio A's 600-square-foot control room is equipped with an 80-channel SSL 9000J console that came from Electric Lady in New York, as well as K&A custom monitors, and a wide selection of outboard processing and microphones. Studio A has been open for about four months, and has already seen several sessions with the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra, Grammy-nominated bass player Nathan East and others.

Kaufman says he conducted a lot of his supervision on this project from a distance, with the help of Skype and a local project manager who consulted with him daily. He was able to test and tune the room in person at strategic intervals, but is still looking forward to hearing the finished studio, which Fang says she appreciates for its "simplicity and functionality. It sounds amazing and looks really professional."

