

BROADCAST BAR

Manning's is a new upscale New Orleans venue, filled with Manning sports and family memorabilia, including material from Archie Manning's career as quarterback with the New Orleans Saints and from the careers of his sons Peyton and Eli.

There are a large number of flatpanel TVs (34 total), but design consultant Rob Pourciau of JBA Consulting Engineers, Metairie, LA, worked hard not to "decorate with TVs," choosing instead to position them to blend with the French Quarter architecture yet provide clear sightlines for watching the various games constantly shown while the restaurant is open.

The AV system serves a dual purpose: entertaining the restaurant patrons in realtime, and providing a venue for sports commentary TV and radio broadcasts (with patrons serving as a live studio audience). This is a great example of an emerging trend that allows sports bars (and churches and schools for that matter) to use AV to serve live and virtual audiences simultaneously and to use live events as content creation for streamed or VOD events.

Visually, the focal point of Manning's first floor is an area called the End Zone, which includes 19 leather recliners in two tiers facing a broadcast anchor desk. Behind and above the anchor desk is a 4x4 videowall that is 13.5ft. wide and 7.5ft. tall. The videowall, with its 16 Paradyne Technology 46in. Super Narrow displays, serves as a background for an on-air personality during TV broadcasts and as a supersized TV the rest of the time. Pourciau used a Crestron DVPHD multi-window video processor to power the videowall, and it mostly sends one or four main images to the wall, but it has the option to display, in addition, RSS feeds, scrolling text, and digital signage messaging.

Although Fred Martinez of Harrah's Entertainment designed a broadcast LED lighting system for the End Zone, the design team did not include cameras or other broadcast gear, knowing that TV and radio production crews would prefer to bring their own. Instead, Pourciau designed the space to handle broadcast-quality digital signals with an input for a production system plus an outside connection for a mobile remote truck and satellite uplink.

In addition to the End Zone broadcast area, the main floor includes a private dining room called Archie's Room, with a 50in. Samsung flatpanel TV and surround sound, plus an exterior courtyard dining area with four 46in. Samsung TVs in weatherproof housings.

Pourciau used a Crestron processor, together with two 6in. and two wireless 8in. touchscreens, to control all of the routing, all of the lighting (including the broadcast lighting), the source and channel selection for each TV, and the source and volume lev-

els for each zone of the MediaMatrix-based sound system. John McGovern of Covington, LA-based integrator PSX handled programming and built the equipment racks.



Archie's Room, one of the private dining spaces at Manning's.

Upstairs is the Stadium Club, a three-way divisible banquet room able to host up to 300 people, opening to a beautiful wrap-around balcony. It has its own kitchen, 42in. Samsung TVs, its own zones in the sound system, plus computer inputs and wireless microphones.

Overall, the major challenge was to create a wiring and switching infrastructure able to accommodate the needs of TV broadcasters plus the high-definition cable and satellite feeds required for the restaurant. Pourciau was able to do both with a single Crestron DigitalMedia 8G+network which includes two DM switchers combined to function as a 48x48 switching matrix.

Using category-type Crestron 8G cable, the network carries high-definition video, audio, and Ethernet to the displays and provides an HD-SDI input and output for the broadcasters. It also manages the EDID handshake between the digital sources and the displays and takes away any worries about HDCP copy protection. Pourciau says Harrah's also wanted the ability to add additional inputs in the future, as they expect the facility to grow. He expects modular architecture of the DigitalMedia components to accommodate those changes when Harrah's is ready for them.