

# Audio Schemes



Bet Fred Studio for LCC Lighting at Media City Manchester

**A**udio Schemes constructs and sound proofs studios for the music, television and radio industries, among others. Company founder Nick Langley says its knowledge of the concept of sound enables Audio Schemes to think outside the box in its designs and constructions.

Audio Schemes is a culmination of the previous experience I had acquired in sound proofing and studio building in previous companies. The way I see it, it's a one man band surrounded by skilled and capable people. Starting out as a dry lining interior specialist more than 25 years ago went a long way to piquing my interest in acoustics and sound. This developed further over the years at two other companies I had a stake in, both of which were eventually sold.

It was during these times I had my first experience of building a recording studio in an old abattoir in Manchester. This kind of work helped further my experience of the studio building process – a perfect marriage of the physics of sound with old style construction work.

## Returning to the industry

After going into semi-retirement following the sale of the previous business, I caught the bug once again and returned to set up Audio Schemes in 2012. Initially, we started by taking on steady volumes of work in domestic sound proofing and home studios and gradually got our name out in the industry. Our cause was greatly aided through recognition from consumer trading title Which? designated us as a trusted trader – a title we've now held for three years.

## FACTS ABOUT AUDIO SCHEMES LTD

- » Constructs and sound proofs studios for post-production, television and radio
- » Based in Stockport, Greater Manchester
- » Founded by Nick Langley in 2012
- » Worked with big industry studios including Warner Bros and Sony, soundproofing for The Royal Academy of Music and Adidas and studio building for bands Pendulum and The Feeling
- » Projected expected turnover of around £1.5 million in 2016/2017 financial year
- » Employs 15 staff
- » Endorsed by Which? as a Trusted Trader.



Nick and Debbie  
Langley

Our success in the past five years has been made all the more remarkable given our geographical location. Ask any professional working in the sector in the UK and they'd likely confirm that it's very much a London-centric industry. Counteracting this meant aligning ourselves with the right projects and help generate positive word of mouth for what Audio Schemes could offer. Another way we've set ourselves apart is through innovating. We take our pre-existing knowledge of sound and bend the rules in the design and construction phase to go beyond set regulations and notions of what people thought were within the limits of possibility.

### Designing and building for many industries

Not long after we were established, bigger studio building jobs followed with the likes of The Royal Academy of Music and professional recording artists The Feeling along with soundproofing the UK headquarters of sportswear giant Adidas in Manchester.

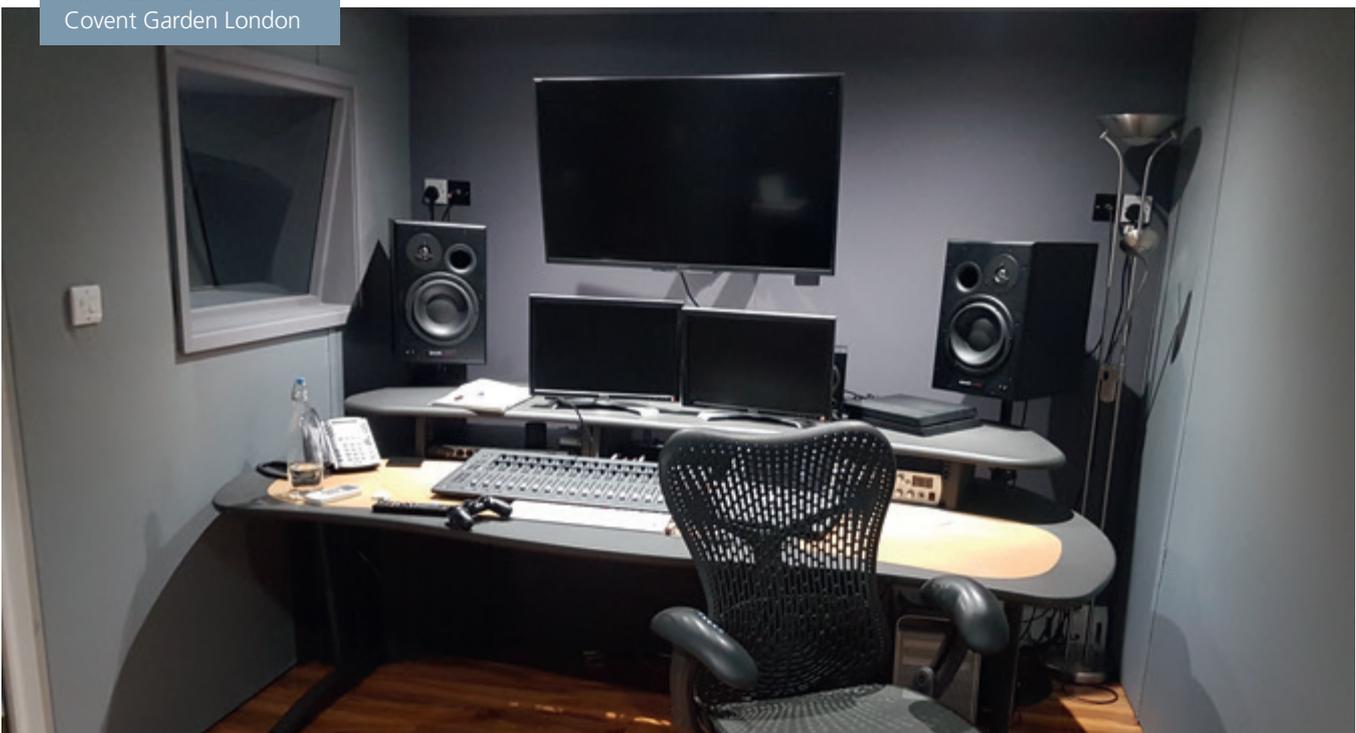
We completed this project in 17 days, 11 ahead of the proposed schedule

and used 19,000 impact resistant inter connecting rubber tiles. To give it some scale it was roughly 60% of the surface area of Wembley stadiums football pitch. This project is a real demonstration of our 'have a go' mentality, while managing to deliver on a big scale to prestigious names. This approach will continue as we look to expand the size of the company. I'm very aware that companies like us won't ever be huge due to the highly specialised nature of what we do, but nevertheless, there's still plenty of exciting new directions to grow the business in.

After these projects, we then moved into the design and build of broadcast studios, simply because we had the pre-existing knowledge and capabilities while the market was a larger one. Initially starting with a London studio for Tamil Media, this move has since resulted in projects with Virgin Casinos. Our profile was further raised in 2015 through our work with the BBC children's programme Dengineers, where we built a studio in the shape of an amplifier. This resulted in a lot of interest, and further grew the company name.

“We always exceed client expectations”

Post Production Studio  
for Round Table Films  
Covent Garden London



As of 2017 Audio Schemes' order books are full until the end of next year, and there is more potential to branch out into other sectors.

### A multi-talented workforce

Making all of this great work possible is our staff of 15 who combine many different talents. The team is comprised of a mechanical engineer overseeing all ventilation and air conditioning work, two joiners who undertake bespoke fabric fittings and a number of dry liners who have served us for many years. People with these specialist skills need to be trusted to use them as a collective. It's a highly skilled sector – for instance, the process of learning to fabric line walls can take up to four years to become proficient in.

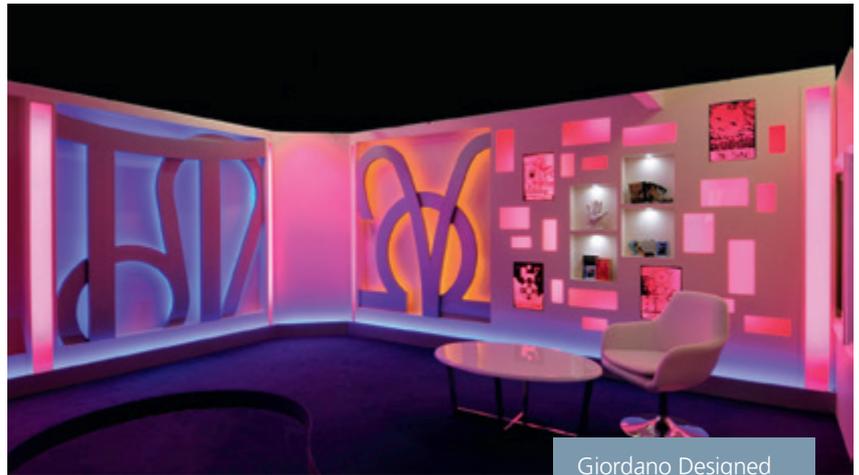
Issues commonly arise during projects and the team need an intricate knowledge of their trade in order to rectify them. A completed sound proofed wall may look good to the eye but in terms of performance, it could still emit too much noise beyond the client request. For cases like these, there needs to be an understanding of what works and what doesn't. Capturing images of our work step by step has proved an effective way of building on-site team communication. This is done at the framing stage, installation stage and so on before being signed off on-site.

### Further recognition of our abilities and services

A genuine area of pride, and testament to the strengths of Audio Schemes and its staff, was being asked by the All England Lawn Tennis Club last year to soundproof the physio rooms and two TV studios under the Wimbledon Centre Court.

### Looking outwards

One of these is expansion into Europe. Despite Brexit, we don't anticipate major changes. Simple, this is because



Giordano Designed set for a Studio in Africa

if the price is right and the quality is there, people will trade. There are also aspirations to look further afield. Inquiries have been made to do some work over in Dubai, a location where word of mouth from UK businesses can go a long way and open up opportunities. The U.S., and specifically New York City, has also been looked at. Worldwide, the British reputation for building still prevails and this will serve us well as we look to move further forward.

“The British reputation for building still prevails”

Premier League set in London LCC/Eye Catching Design

