WindoWall™ Makes a Bold Statement at Mikuni Restaurant

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression" – W. Triesthof

When customers walk into Mikuni Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar in Denver, their first view is of four 65" LCD displays arranged side-by-side to create an impressive videowall driven by the Extron WindoWall™ System and a MAV Plus 1616 HD matrix switcher. It is a lasting first impression. "The displays are right behind the stainless steel sushi bar, and recessed into a wall of glass tiles," says Michael Yee, CTO of Mikuni Restaurant Group. "It's really quite a spectacle, especially in the evening."

The new Mikuni Japanese Restaurant & Sushi Bar in Denver meshes a modern exterior and interior with a technologically advanced A/V system.

restaurant's displays. "We wanted to do as much as possible with our display real estate," Yee says.

With the help of Paradyme Sound & Vision, an A/V installer and system integrator based in Sacramento, CA, Yee decided on the WindoWall System, a multi-display videowall system that enables the creation of presentations with multiple, independent windows for displaying graphics, HDTV, and video. WindoWall is compatible with virtually any display device and outputs high quality video at resolutions up to 1600x1200 and HDTV 1080p/60. Since a discrete real-time hardware based processor is dedicated to each display unit in the videowall, WindoWall is fully scalable, supporting a wide variety of display layouts, from 1x2 up to 3x2 and larger.

"We have a DVD player and five high-definition satellite receivers, and depending on the global presets we have programmed on the switcher, we can display video from any of those sources in any configuration. I can use up to 16 separate images scaled anywhere on the displays, so that gives me quite a bit of flexibility to show different sports games and commercials, along with any background image or wallpaper behind the video."

Design Goals

The restaurant needed a system that would facilitate the display of video from many different sources in a videowall format. And because Mikuni creates its own commercials and also allows customers to buy commercial spots for presentation on the displays throughout the day, Yee wanted to maximize the

Keeping It Simple

Simplicity was a contributing factor in the decision to use WindoWall. While Yee wanted a technologically advanced

For customers entering Mikuni Restaurant, the first view is of four 65" LCD displays creating a massive videowall driven by the WindoWall System and a MAV Plus 1616 HD matrix switcher.

A/V system that would help create a memorable impression, he also wanted to keep the equipment simple. "We were looking for a product that would integrate well with the automation control system, and we didn't want to use too many vendors. We were already using Extron switchers to route HDTV/component video, and we didn't want one company providing videowall processing and another doing the switching," Yee says.

WindoWall Console Software is the user-friendly application designed for fast, easy setup of the WindoWall System. WindoWall Console simplifies the setup process with a series of intuitive Wizards that take the user step-by-step through the process of configuring a videowall. In addition, WindoWall Console automatically handles communication between the WindoWall processors and Extron matrix switchers, while allowing the user to easily customize the window layout, size, and position on screen. Window caption labels, background color, and borders can be added as well, making it the perfect solution for Mikuni. "What's nice about using the WindoWall System is that it talks to Extron's switchers. It was really easy to integrate everything, and there was no third-party code to write."

WindoWall Product Commissioning Service Seals the Deal

Yee says the WindoWall Product Commissioning Service was a major factor in the decision to install the WindoWall System. "I had never used the WindoWall System before, but this service meant that I didn't have to go out to learn it," Yee says. "Extron sent an engineer out to the project to help us commission it, and that was fantastic."

The WindoWall Product Commissioning Service, a cost-effective set up and

calibration service, is available to ensure optimum performance in A/V presentation systems utilizing the Extron WindoWall System. The service includes an extensive pre-installation design review as well as one to two days on site following the installation for system optimization and customer training prior to the system going into full operation. Particular emphasis is placed on the WindoWall Console application software, the user interface to the system. Window layouts, source parameters, and presets are set according to the customer's requirements, and users learn how to best engage the key functions, features, and capabilities essential to getting the most out of the WindoWall System.

"We've been using Extron equipment for awhile, and the quality of Extron products is rock solid. It's always been very reliable and easy to integrate with third-party components. But, overall, it's the back-end technical support that really determines which products we use," Yee says. "I've always been able to speak to Extron tech support within a couple of minutes. There's a lot of good stuff out there, but technical support is key."

Other LCD displays fed by MAV Plus 1616 HD matrix switchers are placed throughout the restaurant, including in the lounge, bars, and private dining rooms.