

INSIDE NITA MUKESH AMBANI CULTURAL CENTRE

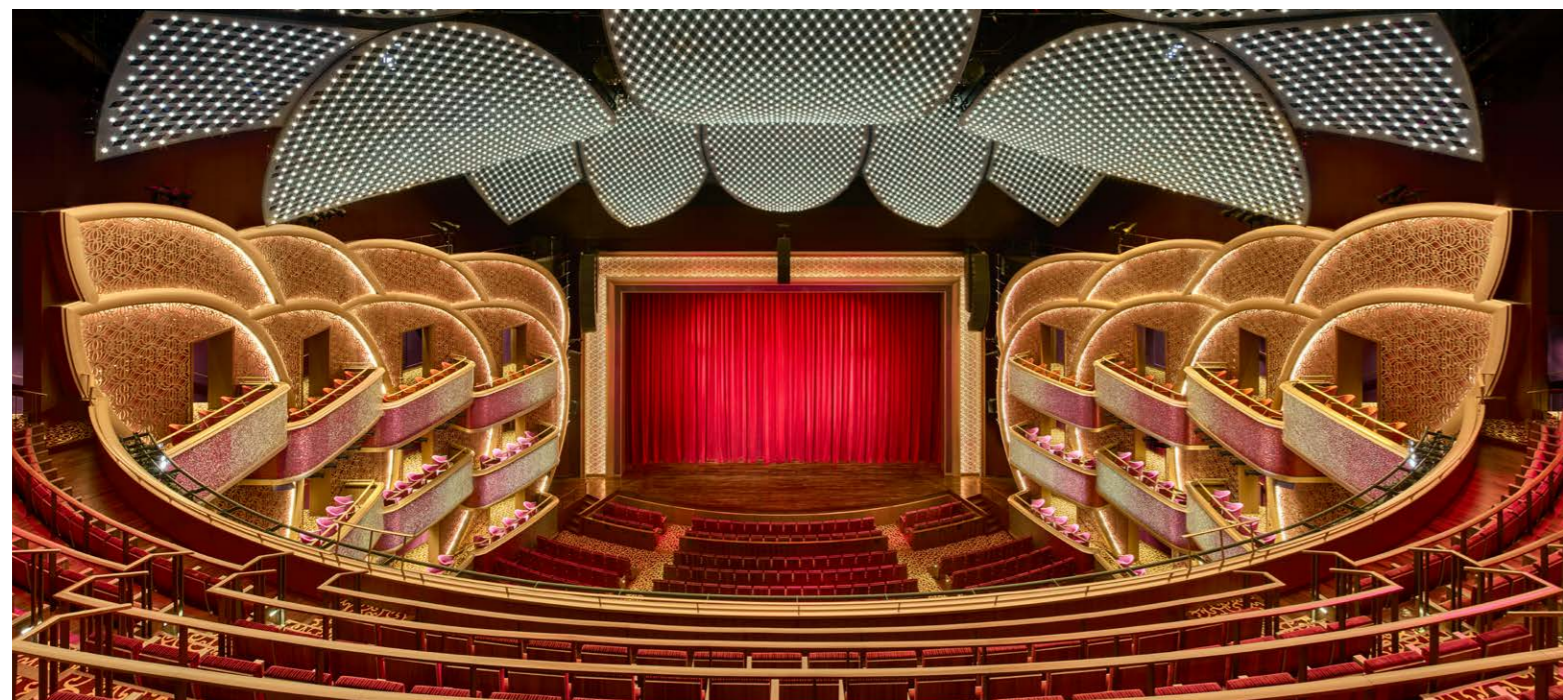
India's Most Technologically Advanced Performance Space

Integrated Entertainment Solutions (IES) provides state-of-the-art pro lighting inventory for Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre.

The Best! The Biggest! The Brightest! The Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre opens doors to one-of-a-kind cultural space in India, and probably in the world, creating an inspiring space that is equally artistically galvanizing, and technologically superlative, facilitating a fabulous fusion of art and technology that can transcend all boundaries. In this feature, we find out what makes this art and culture space so technologically advanced and a class above the rest. The sound system of the venue has already received substantial coverage across various platforms. In this feature however, we shed more 'light' on the pro lighting technology that adds an exceptional luminance to every inch of The Grand Theatre. IES, spearheaded by Rasesh Parekh, illuminates the finest Grand Theatre with lights that spell resplendence.

The **Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre** is a labour of love for Founder and Chairperson **Nita Ambani**, whose first love till this day remains art and culture. Nita Ambani's vision for the Nita Mukesh Ambani Culture Centre is expansive – which stretches beyond showcasing the best of India to the world or bringing the best of the world to India. In Nita Ambani's own words, the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre is "An ode to our nation, the Cultural Centre aims to preserve and promote Indian arts. I hope our spaces nurture and inspire talent, bringing together communities from across India and the globe."

The Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre was inaugurated on 31st March 2023 with India's biggest musical ever, The Great Indian Musical: Civilization to Nation, which has now concluded. The three-day inaugural event was elaborate, flamboyant, and star-studded, with the most famed names from India and abroad gracing



The Grand Theatre at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre is an architectural and technological masterpiece, elevated with state-of-the-art 8,400 Swarovski crystal ceiling, controlled entirely by MADRIX

the opening ceremony. The vast ground on which the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre is sprawled, itself is an indication that Nita Ambani and her team took the task of creating a vivid cultural centre very seriously. Within, there exist three diverse performance spaces— The Grand Theatre, The Studio Theatre, and The Cube.

The Centre's crowning jewel is **The Grand Theatre**, which opened its doors to the world with India's biggest musical ever - *The Great Indian Musical: Civilization to Nation*. As one steps inside The Grand Theatre, it is like entering a universe so coruscating that hours pass like seconds – time comes to a halt. Of

course, this can be accredited to the intricately planned architecture, comprising 2,000 seats across three levels, and 18 Diamond Boxes for a dash of luxury. But there's more to the story. Meticulously designed for immersive experiences, **The Grand Theatre**, the most technologically advanced performing arts theatre in India, houses world-class integrated Dolby Atmos Surround Sound System, Virtual Acoustic System, Special Programmable Lighting System, which is enhanced by the presence of 8,400 Swarovski crystals on the ceiling for a multidimensional experience that steals the visitor's breath away. Not just that, The Grand Theatre is also equipped with integrated recording and projection facilities, which consists of translation booths and an inclusion of special absorbent wood that reduces the reflection of sound and makes the stage the centre piece of the listeners' ears.



The Studio Theatre is an intimate space, designed for cutting-edge performances. With a 250-seater capacity, The Studio Theatre offers a technologically developed platform to aspiring and established artists to showcase their talent to the world. The Studio Theatre features a tension wire grid, the first-of-its-kind in India, which makes lighting and rigging during rehearsals a breeze for lighting designers and trussing engineers. It is also equipped with fully integrated video recording and production capabilities, integrated Dolby Surround Sound System, and fully LED-driven theatrical lighting system. The Studio Theatre promises a space that is developed to realise every artist's dream.



The Grand Theatre houses state-of-the-art technology, which includes Integrated Dolby Surround Sound System, Virtual Acoustic System, and Special Programmable Lighting System



The Cube is a technologically elevated space that features a Panasonic Laser Projection System and Assisted Listening System with 5G connectivity

The **Cube** is labelled by the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre as "an incubator of innovation, new talent, and ideas." A space created for upcoming artists and art forms such as plays, music performances, dance recitals, open mics, and spoken word, The Cube has a seating capacity of 125 people. It is a technologically advanced space that features a Panasonic Laser Projection System and Assisted Listening System with fully integrated video recording and production setup combined with 5G connectivity to make seamless live performance streaming and filming a reality.

The aspect, however, that this feature is focused on is— Which are these lights that are set to make the audience gasp in awe and wonder? What makes these lights dance the way they do? Who ensures the lighting system is in place at all times?

INTEGRATED ENTERTAINMENT SOLUTIONS (IES) LIGHTS UP THE GRAND THEATRE

From conceptualisation to realisation, **Integrated Entertainment Solutions (IES)**, an Indian distributor of some of the leading pro lighting brands, such as **Robe Lighting, Avolites, Lumenradio, Anolis**, and more, provided pro lighting solutions to deck up the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre Grand Theatre to deliver a grandiose luminaire experience to the audience.

Rasesh Parekh, Founder and Proprietor, Integrated Entertainment Solutions (IES), shares, "IES has been associated with the Cultural Centre from its early stages and this project is truly a labour of love. It has taken nearly a decade from conceptualisation to realisation, thanks to the zeal of the Ambani Family to ensure that India has a world class arts and culture destination."

A mammoth project such as the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre requires immense dedication and commitment from a technical



The Studio Theatre is an intimate performance space equipped with a tension wire grid, fully integrated video recording and production capabilities, Dolby Surround Sound System, and LED-driven theatrical lighting system

setup perspective to adapt to the ever-changing requirements with every passing day. Parekh affirms the same, and adds, "IES is responsible as a sole distributor of various top-notch brands such as ROBE, Avolites, Madrix, Lumenradio and many more, to assist and suggest the equipment that would fulfil the requirements of such a facility, where the technical specifications were ever changing as the project timelines changed."

Parekh also talks about the pro lighting brands and equipment housed within The Grand Theatre, "We suggested **MADRIX** for the control of 8,400 Swarovski crystals in The Grand Theatre's ceiling and **ROBE** moving heads such as **MMX, T2 and Avolites** for control systems. **MADRIX**, one of the leading LED control software and hardware companies, is also the favourite choice for lighting designers as it enables LED control with sophistication and ease. With changing timelines came newer and better technologies - from **discharge MSR lamps** in fixtures to **ROBE's T2**, which incorporates a multispectral LED engine as light source."

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LIGHTS GALORE

A Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre's representative revealed more details about the pro lighting products installed within the Grand Theatre. The representative reveals that the Swarovski-encrusted ceiling is a custom **RGBW-W PCB** that has a blending light pipe (custom) that blends the colours coming from the PCB, so that they appear as a glowing lamp instead of individual pixels. The system is completely DMX controlled and is operated by

MADRIX hardware (Luna 16) and **MADRIX 5 software (Ultimate Licence)**.

100 ROBE Lights are included in The Grand Theatre inventory, and they are used in accordance with each production's requirements.

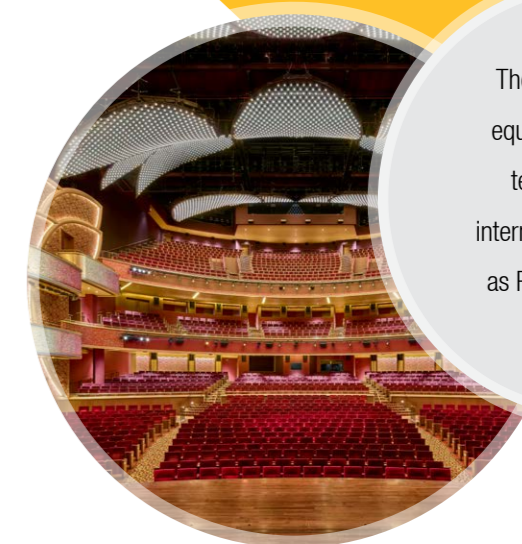
The fixtures are used depending upon the requirements of the stage and the space. Some shows require most onstage fixtures, some have a combination of stage and audience fixtures. For instance, The Great Indian Musical: Civilization to Nation employed a combination of stage and audience fixtures. The show boasted of internationally celebrated, multiple award-winners such as Donald Holder (lighting design), Neil Patel (scenic design), Gareth Owen (sound design) and John Narun (projection design) and seasoned Indian professional artists such as Ajay Atul (music), Vaibhavi Merchant (guest choreographer), Mayuri Upadhyaya (lead choreographer), Samir and Arsh Tanna (choreographers), and Manish Malhotra (costume design).

The lighting dimming and control system at The Grand Theatre is by

ETC (Electronic Theatre Controls) and the lighting consoles in

The Grand Theatre are **ETC EOS Ti consoles**. The Grand Theatre also has a primary and a live tracking back up console. Among other things, the console and the control system help the technicians change the lux levels in the moment.

The Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre representative added that besides Robe, The Grand Theatre is also equipped with a wide inventory of conventional and moving lights from internationally acclaimed lighting manufacturers like **ETC, Martin by HARMAN, Robert Juliat and Altman. ETC Source4** profiles and washes along with a large selection of **ETC Lustre2 LED** profiles complement the moving light inventory.



The Grand Theatre is equipped with lighting technologies from international brands such as Robe, MADRIX, and Avolites

THE LIGHTS INSPIRE. SO DOES THE SOUND:

It is not just that lights at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre's Grand Theatre that serve as a source of appreciation and applause by the audience. The sound that traverses through the Grand Theatre invites goosebumps too. Gareth Owen, an Olivier and Tony Award-winning sound designer, who has previously worked on some of the biggest musicals such as 'Memphis', 'MJ The Musical', and 'Starlight Express', has been an integral part of the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre, and provided his sound engineering expertise to 'The Great Indian Musical: Civilization to Nation'.

In Owen's words, the sound technology used in the Grand Theatre is "on par with the best theatres in the world." He concludes, "I can't think of any venue in New York that's of the same standard as this venue in Mumbai."

In essence the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre is a technological marvel, and we propose to feature the audio component at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre's Grand Theatre in greater detail in one of our upcoming issues.



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Rasesh Parekh, Founder and Proprietor, Integrated Entertainment Solutions (IES)