

Genelec At The Heart of Shreya Ghoshal's "The Sanctuary"

Mumbai's newest boutique studio puts precision monitoring at the centre of a dream creative space



The Sanctuary's precision-tuned control room, featuring Genelec 1238DF midfield monitors flanking the mix position, with 8030C nearfields at the centre, with the double-glazed isolation booth to the right

When one of India's most celebrated playback singers decides to build her own studio, the brief is anything but ordinary. **Shreya Ghoshal's "The Sanctuary"**, located in Santacruz West, Mumbai, is the result of a carefully considered vision — a space designed to serve the working artist without compromise, and built around Genelec studio monitoring from the ground up.

Designing Around the Artist

The studio takes its name from the intention behind it. "Most Mumbai studios are small because of limited space and cost, while the big ones are too large for a single vocalist," **Ghoshal** explains. "So, I wanted a place of the right size where you can sit, ideate, relax, play games, discuss with your band, and move around freely."

To realise that vision, Ghoshal enlisted her father **Bishwajit, Kapil Thirwani** of acclaimed studio designers **Munro Acoustics**, and renowned studio and live sound engineer **Chinmay Harshe**. The resulting design encompasses a precision-tuned control room, a dedicated piano room, small and large isolation booths, and a double-height live room.

"There were back and forth discussions about where to put the control room, and so on, and in about ten days, we finished the plan and decided to execute," recalls Harshe.



The Genelec 1238DF SAM midfield monitor (right) alongside the 8030C nearfield in RAW aluminium finish, the same 8030C pair originally installed in Shreya Ghoshal's home studio during the pandemic

The Monitoring Decision

For Ghoshal, the choice of monitors required little deliberation. “Genelec monitors have been a part of my life from the beginning, with all the big studios in Mumbai using them,” she says. “They have power, precision, and aren’t coloured. Many monitors produce mixes that sound different when you take them elsewhere; but Genelec sounds true.”

Shiv Sood from local Genelec partner **Sound Team** was brought on board to develop the monitoring solution. Following an audition of several models, The Sanctuary settled on the **1238DF midfield SAM (Smart Active Monitor)** systems paired with a **7370A SAM subwoofer**, configured and calibrated via Genelec’s GLM loudspeaker manager software. For nearfield monitoring, a pair of two-way 8030C models in RAW aluminium finish were installed — the same units originally supplied by Sound Team for Ghoshal’s home studio during the pandemic.

Performance in Practice

Harshe is emphatic about what the system delivers in daily use. “Even at low volumes, you hear the entire range clearly and can spot flaws easily. It’s like a microscope — extremely clear. Phase issues are also easy to detect. When you collapse mixes into mono, the sweet spot doesn’t move much. You’re not fishing for it. It’s stable and cohesive.”

Ghoshal echoes the sentiment from the artist’s perspective: “These monitors help me understand what I have sung. If a projection sounds harsh, I’ll go back and redo it. Chinmay knows my voice well and suggests when to change the preamp or mic depending on the song type, whether that’s electronic or acoustic.”

GLM: Calibration Simplified

Much of the system’s accuracy is owed to Genelec’s GLM software, which integrates directly with the DSP hardware built into SAM monitors and subwoofers. The contrast with older workflows is stark. “Back in the day Genelec’s local sales engineer **Clifford Pereira** would always need to come and tune the system, but now GLM handles it, and we know it’s calibrated for the room,” says Harshe. “We tried different subwoofer positions, found what worked best, and that was it. Very easy.”

Open for Business

Since opening, The Sanctuary has attracted a strong roster of visiting clients, including composer **M. Jayachandran**, actress **Ratna Pathak Shah**, and playback singers **Madhumanti Bagchi** and **Armaan Malik**. Future plans include expansion into 5.1 and 7.1 immersive formats.

For Ghoshal, the studio is already delivering everything she envisioned. “This studio gives solitude when needed and space to bounce ideas with others. It works for every artist who comes here – and thanks to the accuracy of Genelec monitoring, we always know what we’re doing.”