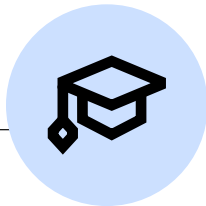


CASE STUDY

Rhodes House, Oxford



Scalable and Elegant AV Ecosystem
for a Historic Venue

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Rhodes House, Oxford



A New Chapter for a Historic Landmark

[Rhodes House](#), the historic Oxford home to the Rhodes Trust, has recently undergone a £38 million transformation. The iconic Grade II listed building originally opened in 1929 and has been reimagined as a world-class convening centre for global thought leadership. The venue now blends its rich heritage with cutting-edge technology built on the [Q-SYS Platform](#), enabling it to host everything from academic symposia and hybrid conferences to weddings and high-profile events. Technology was never an afterthought for the Rhodes House transformation — it was a foundational pillar of the project's vision.



CUSTOMER NAME

Rhodes House

LOCATION

Oxford, England

INDUSTRY

Higher Education

“The system is infinitely flexible. You can move a lectern from one room to another, plug it in, and it just works — same functionality, same branding, same control interface.”

Stuart Harris, Technical Sales Manager, GVAV

Challenges



Image: Fisher Studios, Oxford

From the outset, the project team - technology consultants [Hewshott](#) and integrator [GVAV](#) - faced a unique challenge: to design an AV system that could support a diverse and evolving set of use cases, while remaining invisible within the building's historic architecture. The system needed to be scalable, intuitive, and robust enough to handle everything from a simple speech to a globally streamed event.

Partners



DESIGNING FOR ELEGANCE, FLEXIBILITY AND THE UNKNOWN

Darren Gatenby, Senior Consultant at Hewshott, recalled the early brief: “We were designing for events that hadn’t even been imagined yet. The system had to be flexible enough to grow with the venue.” This meant planning for a wide range of scenarios — from a wedding toast in the garden pavilion to a keynote address by a former U.S. president — all without compromising the building’s aesthetic or usability.

OVERCOMING COMPLEXITY: COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION

Early engagement with the architects proved essential, and the Hewshott and GVAV teams collaborated closely to ensure that every element of the AV system complemented the building’s design. Microphones, for example, were embedded flush within the wooden joinery, and loudspeakers were discreetly integrated within acoustic treatments.

Stuart Harris, Technical Sales Manager at GVAV, noted how rare it was to be brought in so early: “Normally we’re called in after the building’s done, and we have to make the tech fit with what’s already there. This time, everything was coordinated from the start. It made our job easier and the results much better.”

Solutions

A UNIFIED Q-SYS ECOSYSTEM

At the heart of the Rhodes House AV system is the Q-SYS Platform, chosen for its ability to unify audio, video, and control across the entire site. On the decision to go with Q-SYS, Gatenby said, “We were looking at other manufacturers early on, but Q-SYS just evolved into the perfect fit. The ecosystem was ready, the Cores were mature, and the integration with other systems like [Wolfvision](#) was seamless.”

The system architecture is built around [Q-SYS Core processors](#), with AV-over-IP distribution handled by [NV Series endpoints](#). [Q-SYS touch screens](#) and mobile UCIs provide intuitive control, while [Shure](#) MXA microphones and [Q-SYS NC Series cameras](#) enable high-quality hybrid conferencing. The team also implemented custom scripting for features like [Sennheiser](#) MobileConnect and LED lighting control, with additional plugins sourced from [Q-SYS Communities](#).

“What’s been great with Q-SYS is how easy it is to adapt,” says Efthymios Chatzigiannis, AV Manager at Rhodes House. “I hadn’t worked with it before, but the training really opened my eyes. I can create new interfaces or change the design just by dragging and dropping elements. At one event, an AV technician asked for controls for the camera exposure and I was able to create a new interface for them in a matter of minutes. It’s incredibly flexible and intuitive.”

This level of flexibility has empowered the in-house AV team to respond quickly to new requirements, experiment with automation, and continuously evolve the system to meet the needs of a dynamic venue.



Solutions

SPACES DESIGNED WITH PURPOSE AND PRECISION

Each space within Rhodes House has been carefully designed to meet specific functional needs, all while maintaining a consistent user experience through Q-SYS.

The Convening Hall, a large, divisible space that can be configured in multiple ways, is the flagship venue. It features Shure MXA microphones, front and rear Q-SYS PTZ cameras, multiple displays, and Q-SYS touch screens in each zone. The hall supports everything from keynote speeches to panel discussions and formal dinners, with excellent acoustic properties and seamless AV integration.

The XR Lab serves as an immersive exhibition and extended reality space. Users can dynamically adjust lighting to match the mood of an exhibit and highlight specific artifacts within display nooks. Q-SYS Control manages both AV and environmental settings, creating a responsive and engaging experience.

The Garden Pavilion is a fully glazed meeting space equipped with a Q-SYS touch screen, Shure MXA710 microphone array, and large-format display. It's ideal for smaller gatherings and can be enhanced with mobile lecterns that retain full functionality when moved from other rooms — a testament to the system's plug-and-play flexibility.

The renovation also includes 'audio-only' spaces in the Milner, Beit, and Atlantic Rooms. These rooms have been designed for receptions, speeches, and other events with light-touch AV requirements. Each room includes embedded microphones and speakers, with the ability to combine or isolate zones via central Q-SYS control.

This adaptability is what makes the Rhodes House AV system so powerful. Whether it's a formal dinner, a hybrid academic panel, or a spontaneous speech from a visiting dignitary, the technology is ready to deliver seamlessly and reliably.

“ We have to be prepared for anything. You never know who's going to turn up — we've had presidents, professors, and wedding guests — and the system just works. ”

Efthymios Chatzigiannis,
AV Manager, Rhodes House

Results



A VENUE READY FOR ANYTHING

Since reopening, Rhodes House has hosted a wide range of events, including a 120th anniversary dinner attended by President Bill Clinton and Harvard philosopher Michael Sandel, and the AV system has proven itself across all scenarios.

“The system is infinitely flexible,” said Harris. “You can move a lectern from one room to another, plug it in, and it just works. Same functionality, same branding, same control interface.”

Chatzigiannis echoed this sentiment: “It’s so easy to adapt. I’ve even started experimenting with automations like triggering camera tracking based on whether someone’s using a lapel mic. Each day I learn more and more about what is possible with Q-SYS.”

LOOKING AHEAD: BUILT TO EVOLVE

The Rhodes House AV system is not a static installation. It’s a living platform designed to grow, and with infrastructure in place to support additional endpoints, new use cases, and evolving user needs, the venue is ready for whatever comes next.

As Gatenby put it, “There wasn’t really any other solution we wanted to put in. The system had to facilitate everything, anywhere, so AV over IP was the only choice. We’ve got infrastructure everywhere and everything is configured to work with that, so we’ve made the building a matrix. We can now just buy the hardware, plug it in, and we’re ready to go.”



Equipment List

Model	Pcs Used	Description	Image
Q-SYS Core 510i Integrated processor (now updated to X Class Server Cores)	1	Customizable I/O featuring 8 onboard I/O card slots, 128×128 local audio channels, 256×256 network channels and 64 AEC processors	
Q-SYS NV-32-H (Core Capable)	16	Multipurpose, software-configurable video endpoint featuring 32×32 network channels, 8 AEC processors, & onboard audio via HDMI, USB and 3.5mm connections.	
PTZ NC-20×60	9	Network camera with motorized PTZ, 20x optical zoom and 60° horizontal FoV	
AD-C6T (now updated to AD-C6T-ZB)	9	AcousticDesign™ Series ceiling-mount loudspeakers 6.5", 2-way, 135° conical DMT, passive	
CX-Q Series Amplifier	2	Network amplifier featuring 8 channels and 8 bi-directional GPIO connections	
TSC-116w (now updated to Series G3)	4	11.6" wall-mounted Q-SYS network touch screen controllers	



Q-SYS is a globally recognized manufacturer of audio, video and control (AV&C) solutions for huddle rooms to stadiums—and everything in between. Our systems make it easy for your team to design and integrate flexible, scalable solutions and deliver the native IT integration and standards-based technology your customers expect.

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