



C A S E S T U D Y

Watt Stopper/Legrand's Miro lighting controls help new restaurant attract and retain customers

Paulie's Pizza
Bluffton, SC

Watt Stopper products used

MRD4 Universal Dimmers

MRD6 Room Scene Controllers

MRH6 Room Scene Remote

MRD5 House Scene Controller

Carefully controlled lighting plays a crucial role in creating a convivial ambience at Paulie's Original Coal Fired Pizza, a 2,500 square foot restaurant that opened in June 2006 in Bluffton, South Carolina. While owner Angelo Carrabba liked the multiple preset control capabilities of traditional centralized dimming systems, this kind of equipment came in over budget. Fortunately, rather than using standard wall box dimmers, Dayne Mock, owner of Tri-M Electric, learned about another alternative, Watt Stopper/Legrand's intelligent Miro dimmers. With the help of The Schneider Company, the local rep agency, Mock developed a control solution using Miro that met both the performance and budget requirements of the restaurant.

Lighting and control solution

The casually elegant establishment includes a general dining area, an adjacent bar and a private dining room. Lighting in the public spaces includes a combination of

decorative electronic low voltage track heads, decorative pendants and line voltage recessed down lighting wired on approximately twenty separate circuits. Each circuit is controlled by an individual Miro Universal Dimmer located in an electrical closet.

A Room Scene Controller located at the bar provides access to the dimmers powering the main dining room and bar lighting. Private dining room dimmers are controlled separately by a second Room Scene Controller. Preset lighting levels (scenes) for both rooms have been established for morning, lunch, dinner, cleanup and nighttime. The manager enjoys having a handheld Room Scene Remote that allows him to adjust the lighting in the main dining area from any location at his convenience. A House Scene Controller near the cash register can recall scenes in both rooms allowing staff to quickly set up for meal service, switch to cleanup or turn lighting off at the end of a shift.

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The use of the scene controllers eliminates the need to access the individual dimmers during normal operations and allows the staff to easily, smoothly and accurately recall the designed lighting levels each day. Additionally, there is no practical limit to the number of dimmers that may be included in a scene.

Equipment installation and performance

System installation and setup went quickly and uneventfully. Because Miro dimmers and controllers communicate using a wireless RF protocol, no control wiring was needed, so installation costs were in line with costs for installing typical wall box dimmers. The only addition was three single gang back boxes, with power, for the scene controllers.

From the time of the installation until December 2006, the dimmers and scene controllers operated exactly as expected, to the complete satisfaction of Mr. Carrabba. During the holidays though, the scenes buttons suddenly began to evoke completely different lighting looks. The culprit turned out to be potential next-generation restaurateurs – Mr. Carrabba’s kids – doing a little amateur lighting design while on school break. After determining the cause of the problem, Carrabba reestablished the correct lighting levels and implemented Miro’s configuration lock feature to prevent future unauthorized changes.

While there is every expectation that the dimming sys-

tem will operate reliably for years to come, the distributed intelligence of Miro’s product design makes troubleshooting and repair quick and easy should a product malfunction. Scene memories are stored in each dimmer, so there is no possibility of a central processor failing. And, if one dimmer does fail, the rest of the dimmers will continue to operate normally. In a pinch, a switch could be used temporarily in place of a failed dimmer, or a spare could be kept on hand for easy replacement. In either case, a local electrician can easily install the new part.

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Project achievements

Paulie’s Pizza, with its clean, attractive decor, has been a success with the local community since its debut and is open everyday for lunch and dinner. The Miro dimmers and scene controllers selected for the project deliver the quality of control typically associated with centralized dimming systems, providing single button access to smooth fades and consistent lighting levels day in and day out. They also allow the individual dimmers to be located remotely keeping public spaces free of excess devices. Diners at Paulie’s Pizza appreciate the performance and style. The owner and manager enjoy the convenience and reliability of Watt Stopper/Legrand’s controls as well as the energy saving resulting from dimming and being able to easily turn off the lighting. Mr. Carrabba concludes, “I love the lighting control system -- it really works well.”

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