

Total Fabrications Bends the Rules

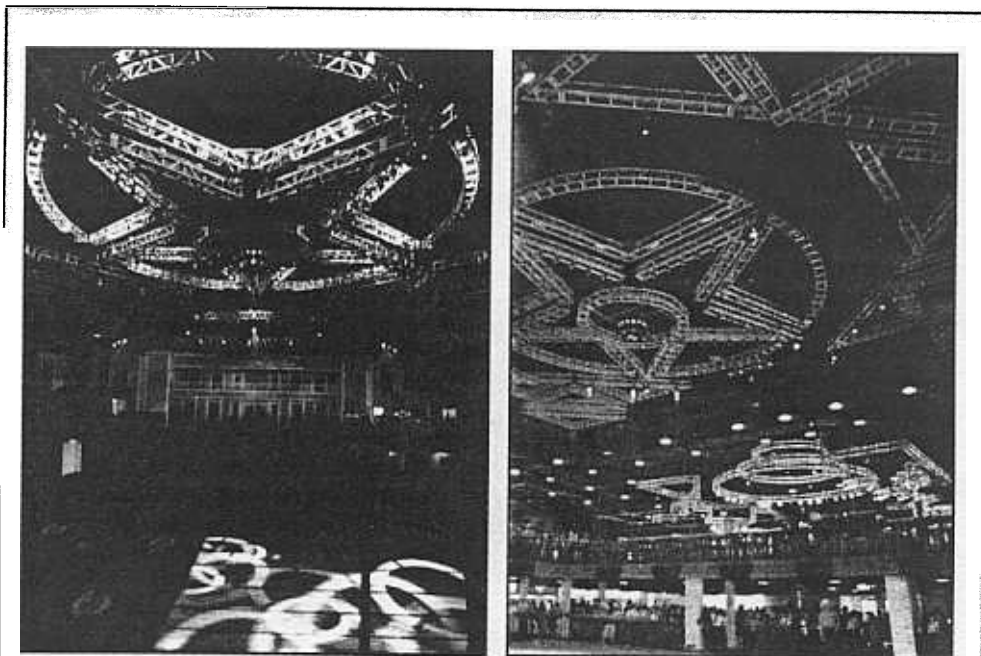
Defying geometric laws to deliver what the customer wanted, **Total Fabrications Inc.** manufactured and installed more than 1,600 linear feet of custom designed trussing in unique triangular and circular patterns for San Antonio's **Far West Rodeo**, which opened March 6.

Trussing was installed in four areas of the 70,000-plus-square-foot nightclub, which includes a three-level performance stage, two large dance floors and a rodeo arena with grandstands and stock pens. Total Fabrications' Rick Stuart told *PERFORMANCE* the centerpiece structure hangs above the main dance floor and consists of 18 triangles (nine per side, some with programmed moving sections), flown symmetrically at varying levels, plus two large, interlocking star shapes — one sliced into five triangles with one arc side and the second with programmable moving points — and a smaller circle (on three moving points) in its center.

"You're getting into strange geometry when you start getting into triangles with curved sides," Stuart explained. "And it's not easy to take aluminum and bend it or fabricate it that way. It's really easy for me to do that on a computer screen, but to hand them these CAD drawings and say, 'Here, build this and make sure it fits,' is a whole other thing ... it's asymmetrical. The guys in our factory are just really awesome."

Other structures include equilateral triangle truss bordering on three sides of the rodeo arena floor, an arc matching the curve of the downstage edge of the performance stage plus multi-tiered three-level truss upstage and three cascading circles within circles above the mezzanine dance floor. Stuart described the circles as graduating in size from 14-foot-6 inches diameter (top) to 20-foot-4 inches (center) and 29-foot-9 inches (bottom) and "framed on two sides by a step structure reminiscent of an M.C. Escher design," he added.

Designed by **Far West's Joel Gonzales**, the structures took eight men approximately seven days to hang. "But it should have taken only three or four," Stuart said. "The reason it took seven



Total Fabrications Inc. supplied and installed more than 1,600 linear feet of custom designed trussing in four areas of San Antonio's 70,000-square-foot Far West Rodeo, which opened March 6. Pictured are "under construction" and "completed" shots of the 18-triangle, "Lone Star," which hangs above the club's main dance floor.

was because so much other construction was going on that was not related to what we were doing — windows, walls, flooring. And we were working in fumes that were just awful — peat, welding and dust like you wouldn't believe. We'd hoped they would be done before we got there, but they weren't."

Ventura, Calif.-based **Skjonberg Controls Inc.** designed, engineered and programmed motor control, which runs by DMX through the club's main lighting console, a **Martin Case**. In addition, the club is outfitted with Martin lighting and sound equipment, which includes nine Roboscan 218s, four 518s, 12-1220 XRs, 12 Robocolor Pro 400s and 16-IIIIs, nine MAC 500s and 10-600s and a range of Mach Series speakers.

News You Can Use

After more than three years with **Cellar Door** in Atlanta, veteran production manager **Patrick Whitley** joins **Jim Lewi's** Aspen-based **Tour Together**. "With Jim's marketing history and my touring and production history, I feel we can bring a lot to people putting tours and festivals together," Whitley told *PERFORMANCE*. "This is something both Jim and I have wanted to do since we worked on H.O.R.D.E." Whitley said his decision to leave **Cellar Door** was a matter of it being time to move on. "I had a very positive experience there and it's a company I've always had the greatest respect for, but it's time for me to do my own thing and captain my own ship," he said. "I now have a whole new respect for the promoter side of the fence. That's a tough side to sit on." ■