

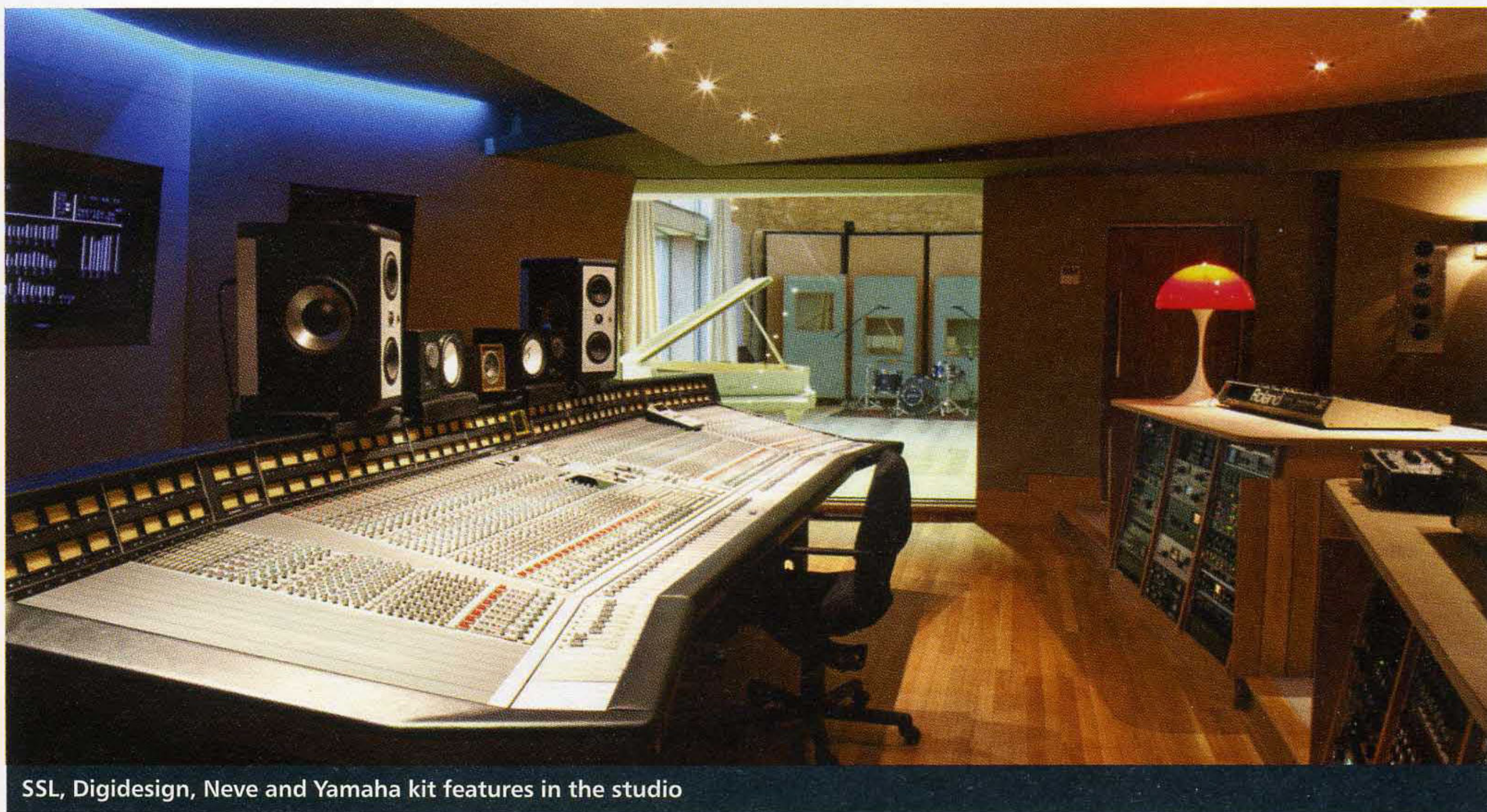
UNITED KINGDOM

Heaven is a place... in Northants

Studio management group Miloco has great expectations for ex-Jamiroquai man's new project, writes **David Davies**

“Very detailed for tracking, but with a great ambience for mixing” is how producer and former Jamiroquai keyboardist/songwriter Toby Smith describes his new Northamptonshire residential facility, Angelic Studios, which is now available for bookings via studio management group Miloco.

The result of two years' hard graft, Angelic was designed by Sam Toyoshima and adheres to Smith's vision of a studio that emphasises vintage gear and an “esoteric” array of classic instruments. Comfort, too, was a high priority, and to this end the size-



SSL, Digidesign, Neve and Yamaha kit features in the studio

able control space, two recording rooms and the isolation booth are complemented by a luxurious six-bedroom residence with wood-burning stove.

“First and foremost, it was built for me and my projects, and the aim was

to create a studio that would be immediately comfortable, appealing and inspiring; a real ‘home away from home’,” says Smith, who co-wrote *Virtual Insanity*, *Deeper Underground* and many of Jamiroquai's other greatest hits.

Miloco's Nick Young confirms that the studio's rental pricing is “towards the upper end of what we offer”, but for this clients will have access to an inventory that is headed up by an SSL SL8072 G+ console that once occupied Town House Studio 2, and a Digidesign Pro Tools HD3 rig equipped with three 192 interfaces and two Apogee converters. Outboard features 18 vintage Neve mic-pres (four 1084s, six 1100s and eight 33114s), while monitors include ATC SCM200s, Yamaha NS10Ms, Auratones and MicroMain 27s from Barefoot – a brand about which Smith is highly effusive.

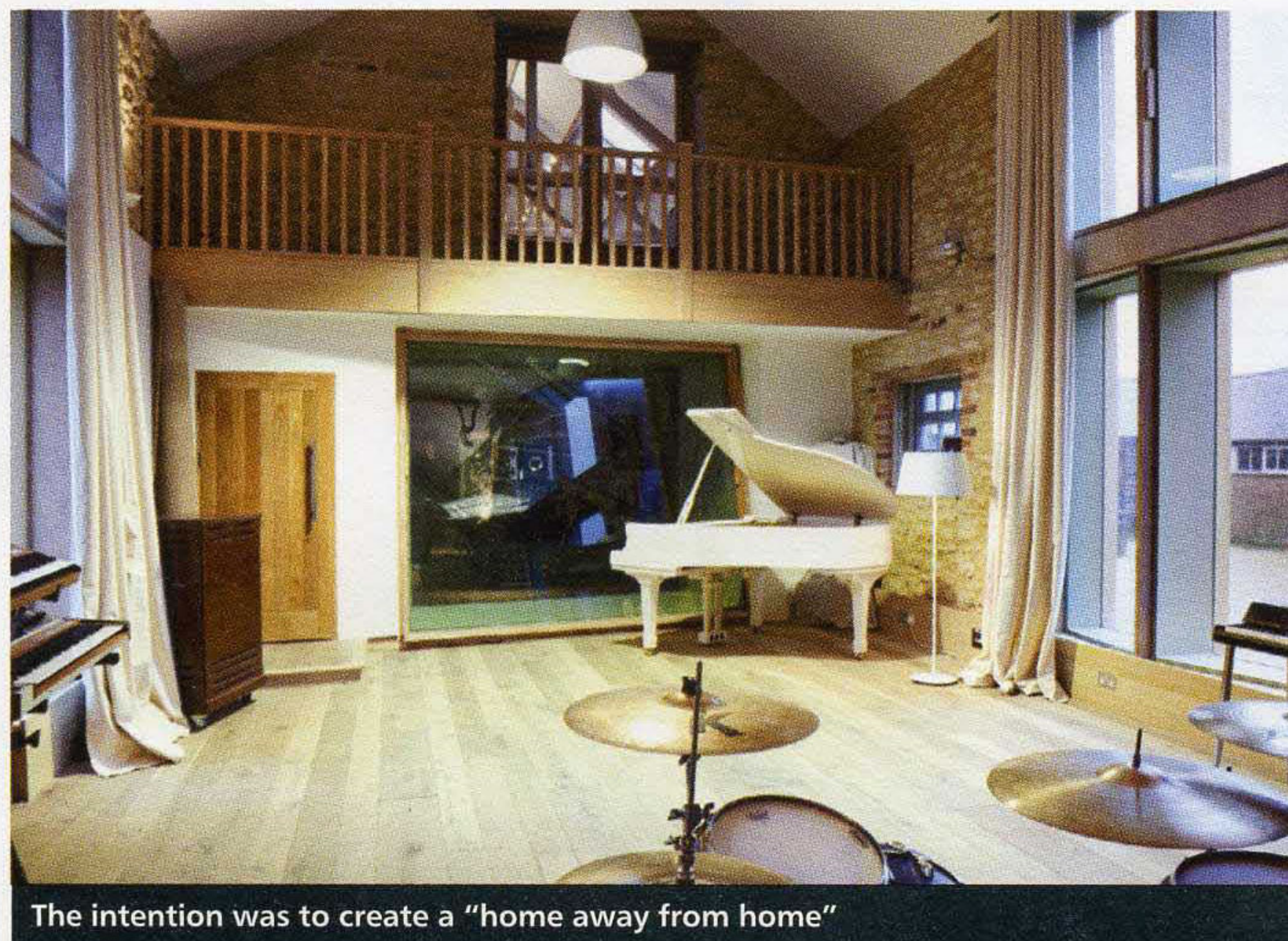
The microphone and MI stocks are similarly extensive. Fixtures from AKG,

Coles, Neumann and Royer populate the former, with Fender, Rickenbacker, Yamaha and Roland among the brands featuring in the latter.

Factor in plentiful views of rolling countryside, and the impression is of a facility that harks back to the glory years of residential studios – when, as Smith recalls, artists were afforded generous “time and space” to labour away on their latest masterworks.

Alas, record company budgets are not what they once were, but Young is convinced that the studio can attract a sufficient stream of high-end clients. “I always say that it takes about 18 months to really establish a studio and give it a reputation,” he says. “But it's an amazing facility, and I am convinced that once the word has spread it will really appeal to those people still willing to spend money on studios – and they are out there...”

www.miloco.co.uk



The intention was to create a “home away from home”