

GENELEC®

CASE STUDY

Hardwell's Organic Overhaul

EDM GIANT HARDWELL
COLLABORATES WITH
JAN MOREL ON PERSONAL
STUDIO REDESIGN



Hardwell, DJ & Producer.



HARDWELL'S STUDIO JOURNEY CONTINUES,
WITH GENELEC ONCE AGAIN AT THE HEART OF
THE LATEST TRANSFORMATION.



Dutch DJ/Producer [Hardwell](#) has been a driving force in the global music scene for over a decade. Rising to prominence in the early 2010s, Hardwell quickly established himself as a household name in the world of dance music. Known for his high-energy performances, chart-topping tracks and innovative production techniques, Hardwell's relentless pursuit of sonic

perfection extends beyond his sets and into his personal studios, where he continually reinvents his sound.

Hardwell's studio evolution has been shaped by his long-time collaborator, world leading designer [Jan Morel](#), known for creating cutting-edge, futuristic studios for some of the biggest names in dance music.

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Morel's focus on studio design has always been clear. "It's a process," he explains. "You start with the studio equipment and from there, my clients often ask for better sound – then you move into acoustics. It can be a slow process, but it's immensely rewarding as it's not a decision made from one day to the next. It constantly adapts."

Morel explains the history of his studio design work with Hardwell: "We started in Hardwell's personal studio about 13 years ago and soon after, he became the number one DJ in the world. Since then, I've designed around four or five studios for him. The first was in his parents' house and then he moved to his own place, where he still lives today." After the first successful studio build at Hardwell's home in the beautiful Dutch town of Breda, a second studio redesign proposal came about rather organically. Morel explains: "It comes

from his thought process. He'll say things like, 'Can we change this? Can we add that there?' Slowly but surely, we started to create something new out of the old design. Each time he has a new studio idea, it's always a step above the previous one."

For the monitoring system in the new Breda studio, it was clear that Genelec would again play a central role. Thanks to Morel, Hardwell has developed a deep love of Genelec: "When we built the first studio together, Jan really advised me to listen to Genelec monitors," Hardwell explains. "Before, I was using different brands, but when we listened to the 1034s for the first time, I was blown away. I knew of Genelec, and their brand always sounded great to me, but I'd never heard the main monitors like that. From that point on, I fell in love with Genelec."



Jan Morel, Studio Designer.

” THE WHOLE SPACE FEELS LIKE A SWEET SPOT NOW.

In the new Breda studio, every detail is meticulously designed to ensure optimal sound. The equipment includes two white [1234As](#) as main monitors (replacing the original [1034s](#)), augmented by a [7073A subwoofer](#). For nearfield monitoring, pairs of [8341A](#) three-way coaxials and [8020D](#) two-ways provide a more radio-friendly reference to complement the high SPL ‘festival’ experience of the 1234As. Reflecting on his experience with Genelec, Hardwell emphasises the difference these upgrades have made: “I’ve used the 1034s for over a decade, but we recently upgraded to the 1234As and I couldn’t be happier. The biggest change is the amplifier design, and the 1234A’s SAM (Smart Active Monitoring) technology has been a game-changer.”

SAM models like the 1234A and 8341A feature internal DSP hardware which integrates tightly with

[GLM](#) loudspeaker manager software, offering the perfect level of precision and flexibility – something that was essential for Hardwell’s advanced production setup: “The monitors calibrate to the room, which made a huge difference here. Despite the room’s size, the whole space feels like a sweet spot now. There’s no more phase cancellation when I move around; everything just sounds smooth. Normally, you’d hear more low-end in the back of a room, but not with these monitors.”

Regarding the challenges faced, Morel explains: “There wasn’t really a technical challenge; the only tricky part is getting everything on time. The timeline can stretch to a year and there’s never a strict schedule – we’ll add and swap things depending on the mood. I once suggested changing the ceiling. Hardwell said, ‘No, just do the front wall.’”



Once the front wall was done, he'd suggest, 'Maybe we should look at the ceiling.' After that, it was, 'Let's do the side walls and change the monitors!' Hardwell always likes to make changes due to new ideas and passions, which can make things challenging, but that's how design works with him – it keeps things fun and interesting."

The Breda studio, which took months of on-and-off work, has become a sound powerhouse, with an environment tailored not only for music production but also for a seamless creative process. Hardwell's ongoing studio evolution has seen Genelec as a constant partner in this journey,

delivering sound that meets the high standards of one of the world's top DJs. As he continues to push the boundaries of electronic music, his latest studio will be ready for whatever comes next.

Hardwell's reaction to the Genelec monitors was overwhelmingly positive, praising their clarity and ability to reveal previously unnoticed details in his tracks. As Morel notes, "It's always the same experience – the moment the new Genelec monitors are installed, it's like discovering the music all over again. Hardwell couldn't stop talking about how much better the new system was!"



THE KIT

- 2 x 1234A
- 2 x 8341A
- 2 x 8020D
- 1 x 7073A
- 1 x GLM Calibration Kit

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