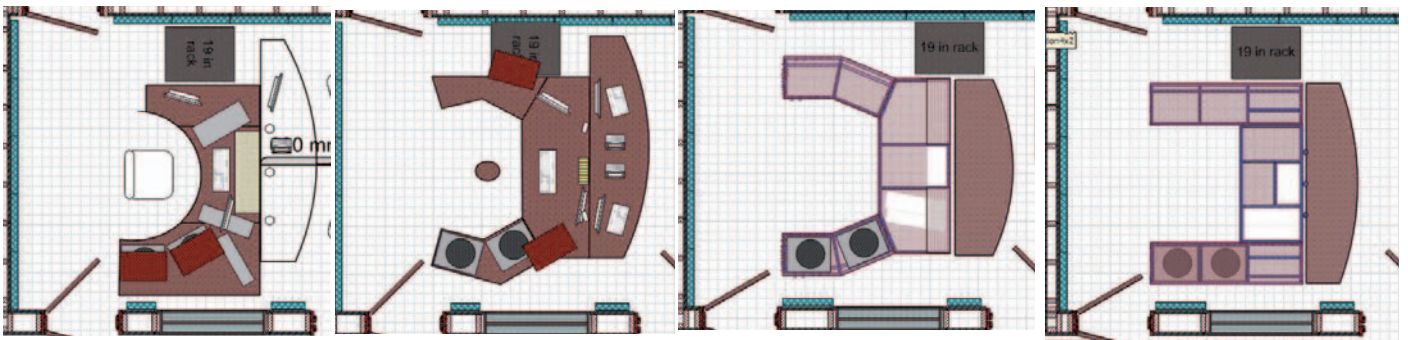


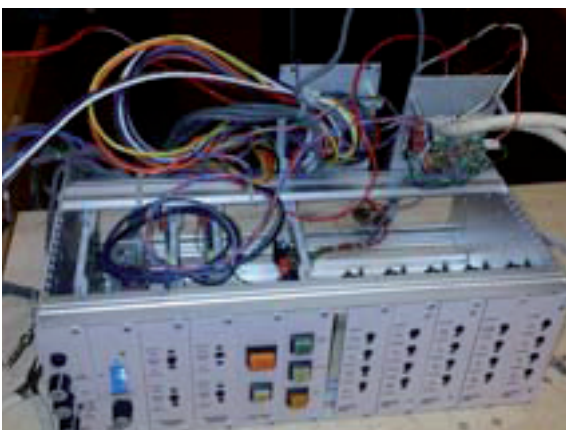
red dot radio 2019 makeover!



In all fairness it's been a long time coming. The studio as pictured on the left was designed and built in 1994 for our premises in the West Annexe at the old Royal Infirmary. It survived a couple of moves, first to the Royal Victoria Hospital where we were located in portakabins and then on to the present location in the Western General Hospital.



The new design was started in 2016 with an attempt to create more space for the operator - several attempts were made - semi circular - angular but nothing really worked out until late last year. The layout ended up remarkably similar to the old one but wider! And with more screens. The trick is whether it can be built!



This necessitated reworking some of the electronics to fit a narrower space, requiring the backplanes and securing the multiway connectors in another location. The meters which had been a part on the monitor bridge now sit in a separate case on the top of the control modules. The mixer frame had to be discarded as part of the remit was to provide central space for a keyboard and mouse. This meant making custom frames to take to mixer modules. Fortunately we had bought a modular designed mixer all those years ago - who knew!

This leaves us with the flexibility to replace the mixer at a later date.



And so to work - steel delivered and cut to length. Do hope the calculations are correct and it'll fit through the studio door! Two studio's worth of desks is quite a lot! It's handy if you have a sizeable garage at home.



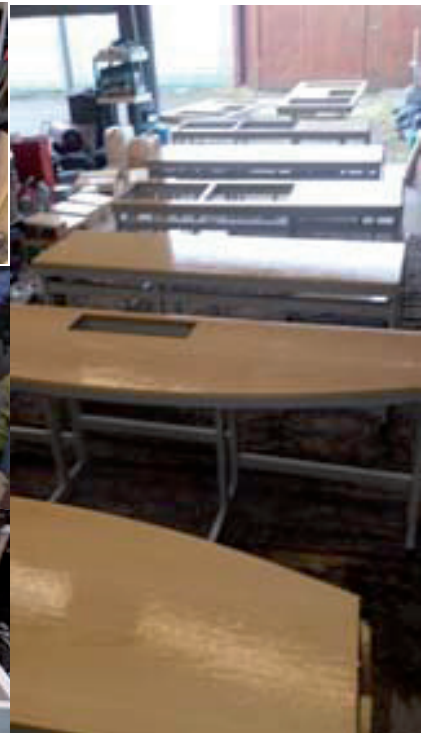
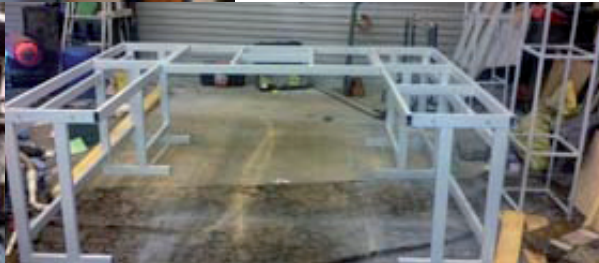
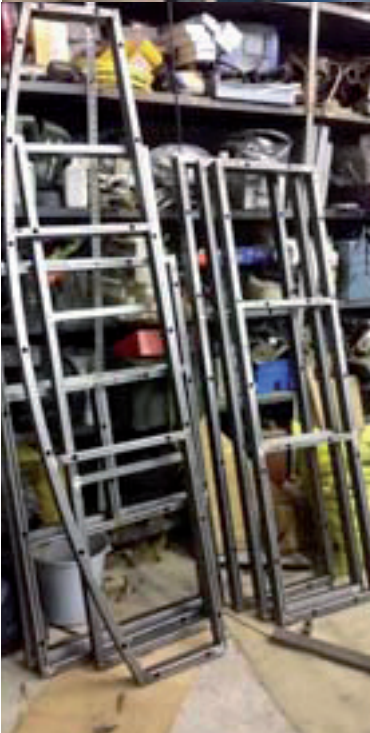
Then the 'Ikea' bit - pre-drilling all the lengths so that the tops and backs can easily be screwed on - big hole one side little hole the other. ready for assembly and fitting plus holes for the captive nuts for holding the bottoms and backs! That's 124 large holes and 124 small holes plus 116 for captive nuts. That's a lot of drilling.

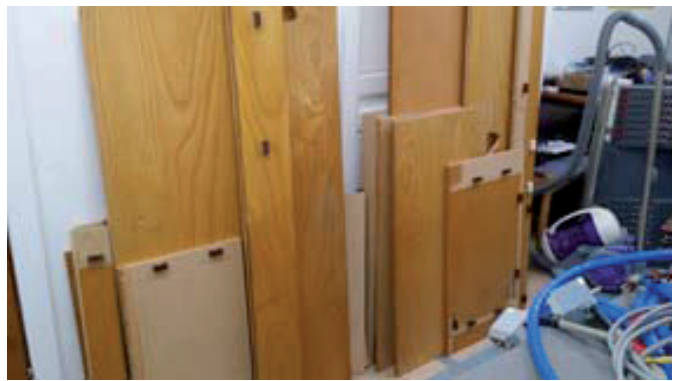


A friendly blacksmith with a rolling toy came in handy as well!



Then it all had to be welded together before painting. No photos of that as the photographer was the welder and painter! Then the woodwork. Ash veneered mdf used for the tops with softwood edges to take to dings. Assorted cutouts for the equipment and it's ready for five coats of varnish to finish off. Then it's off to the studios to assemble. Sounds simple.....

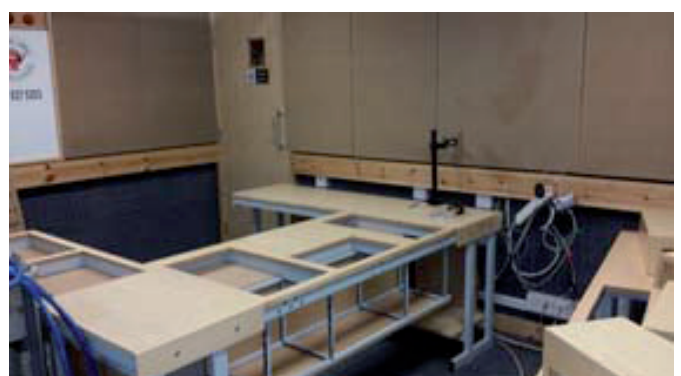
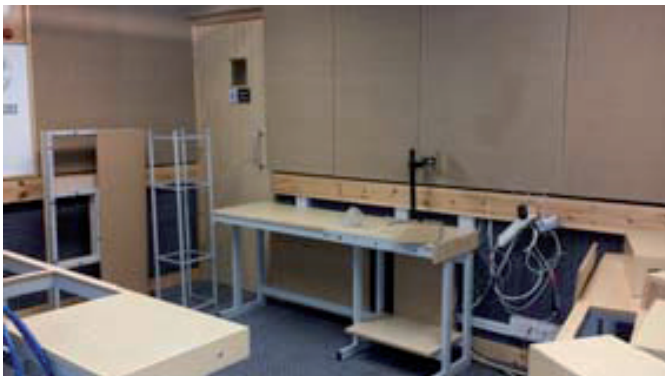




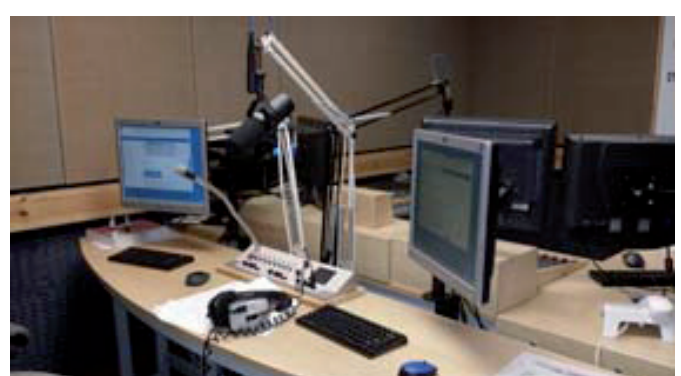
First the old studio is carefully disassembled - all the equipment and electronics is going to be re-used. The desks however returned to their flatpack look and are available to any wouldbe



Once all the equipment was out the carpet tiles were lifted as well to allow some remedial work to be done to the floor following a small water incident at the beginning of the year.



Piece by piece the new furniture arrived and was assembled - see it did fit through the door! And then several days of re-installing equipment and cabling!



Ta-da! One fully re-furnished studio - now has touch screen players for mp3 tunes and jingles and remote starts for both CD players and turntables. Plus enough computers to heat iceland.. NB this is my fifth complete studio build (1973, 1994, 2003, 2012, 2019)- I may not be around for the next.....