

July/August 2022

£5.95

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Lighting

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GOING GREEN

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How can lighting remain sensitive to the exhibits on display?

It is important to remember that light can in fact cause damage to artefacts, with paper and media being particularly sensitive to light. Traditional lamps are high-risk, and the development of LED technology has removed this hazard as it does not create IR and UV light. This makes it ideal for the sensitive nature of many historic pieces and objects. Dimming and correctly evaluating the right amount of light also contributes to the preservation of the display, because even overexposure to light can cause damage.

In our recent collaboration with lighting designer Romano Baratta to illuminate the Globe of Fra Mauro, he told us that lighting exhibits in glass cabinetry can be a challenge. It is important to avoid reflections on glass cases and ensure lighting does not cast a shadow from the visitor when they are viewing a piece. The risk of this is inhibiting viewing of an artefact and therefore not allowing for a piece to be fully explored and appreciated.

Can you please give us an example of a museum lighting project you have worked on and what it involved?

Lighting designer Romano Baratta recently chose to work with formalighting when he was commissioned to illuminate the Globe of Fra Mauro (1460) - one of the most precious cartographic testimonies of the pre-modern world.

The fixtures from formalighting use high colour rendering, ensuring the spectacular blue seas have been brought to life and every detail has been enhanced. The lighting is integrated with Casambi Technologies Motion Sensor creating a series of scenarios activated by the visitors who are then immersed in the observation of a work in different light conditions. The LED engine was Seoul Semiconductor's Sunlike.



Painted on parchment and mounted onto a wooden board, this delicate historical artefact and enchanting vision has been illuminated for the world to see. The result is captivating and inspiring space, which formalighting is proud to have played a key role in creating.

Which of your products are most specified for this type of environment?

The whole series of our products with zoom optics, which allow the light beam to be adjusted to the dimensions of the work on display, including our latest one, Teatro Mini from formalighting are all suitable for museum and gallery applications. Teatro is an innovative lighting solution designed by Ponctuelle specifically for museums and retail spaces. It is the ideal solution for accent lighting integration within showcases and displays, available in recessed or surface mounted installations.

Teatro meets all of the complex architectural lighting requirements by providing impressive light performance. In addition, its ease of use is incredibly impressive, thanks to its simple installation

and integrated magnetic system for mounting multiple additional accessories such as a softening filter, honeycomb, accessory holder and barn doors.

How does the lighting improve the visitor's experience of a museum or art gallery?

The right lighting impacts everything from the moment you arrive, communicating historic narratives and subjective artworks. Lighting has the power to change the mood from one room to another and draw your eye from one piece of art to the next - all enhancing the story-telling and captivating nature of a museum.

Thanks to the continuous evolution of LED technology, which increasingly gets closer to the colour rendering of natural light, it is possible to give life to the artworks and exhibits like never before - giving them greater brilliance and value.

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Image credits:
Project: Globe of Fra Mauro.
Architect: Tomasetti.
Lighting Designer and Photographer: Romano Baratta.