

# lighting today

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2010

## Cover Stories

### *The Infinity Bridge, U.K.*

A stunning lighting design by  
Speirs and Major Associates

### **CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2010**

One of the best and most visually  
exciting World Cup events to date

### **Exclusive! SHOW REPORTS**

## Lighting Showcase

### **LASER MANIA AT EUROPA PARK'S HISTORAMA**

### *Opening Ceremony of Marina Bay Sands*

## iLLuMa - Product Showcase

### *Giselle* by Gallery Vetri d'Arte



# *Historama at Europa Park*

## HISTORY IN A NEW WAY

**On the occasion of its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Europa Park presented a new multimedia attraction. Laser show and multimedia specialist LOBO was in charge of the technical layout and implementation.**

**A**n unparalleled success story, the Europa Park is the world's largest seasonal amusement park and is owned by the Mack family, who not only run the park with passion and an incredible love for details, but who also hark 230 years back as a manufacturer of carts and rollercoasters.

Right for the start of the anniversary week, the so-called "Historama" opened its gates within a glamorous opening ceremony with approximately 300 members of the press, Prime Minister Stefan Mappus, Sabine Christiansen and Henry Maske.

The Europa Park is dedicated to the history of the park and its owners. Apart from the "Generations' Restaurant" with a VIP lounge and a monorail station, it also comprises an innovative

multimedia ride, for which LOBO developed and implemented the whole technical concept.

### **Inside the Attraction**

For the new attraction, the former glass pyramid was entirely cleared out and the interior and exterior was completely redesigned. Upon entering through an opulently designed museum, the waiting crowds gain unusual insights into the development and milestones of the park, thanks to numerous exhibits and interactive displays.

The actual attraction consists of three pompously designed guest cabins, which revolves around six stages, and perfectly matches the design of the museum. Up to 700 visitors (per hour) can participate in the 15-minute ride through history.





At their seats, the visitors are welcomed by a 'clumsy park attendant', who accidentally sets off the alarm whereupon the museum comes to life and takes the spectators to a journey through time. Each of the five upcoming scenes offers completely new experiences and is dedicated to another aspect of the park. For example, a scene presents an on-ride experience of the park's rollercoasters by means of a 180° panorama, and also, the sensational shows with all the stars and glamour are celebrated with a true multimedia spectacular.

#### Team Credits

Thanks to a well-attuned team, the entire implementation of this project hardly took more than six months. Under the responsibility of Patrick Simon, the park's visionary Jan Keller implemented the redesign of the building, whereas the contents were developed in co-production of Calren and LOBO under the direction of Achim Schnitzer. Whilst LOBO was in charge of the technical overall concept, the technical implementation and the laser and effect production, Calren was responsible for the music and video production.

Said LOBO's Creative Director Alexander Hennig, "An attraction with six individual rooms; each stuffed with sophisticated multimedia technology, three simultaneously running guest cabins, live interactions with actors and the integration of a complex mechanical drive with its safety aspects is an extraordinary challenge, especially with regards to the controlling aspect."

#### Controlling the Visual Effects with LACON-5

LOBO confidently mastered the challenge, thanks to the application of

the proprietary real-time controlling unit LACON-5. Based on a UNIX workstation, LACON-5 allows almost unlimited internal and external expansion for even large numbers of most different control interfaces. It provides an open driver concept and controls all devices and effects of the attraction via an ultra-fast optical data bus without needing any additional media control units. A brief view onto the technical setup of the attraction incorporating the latest media and effect equipment, shows impressively what this means in practice in the case of the Historama.

A total of 27 digital video projections with an overall light power of more than 160,000 lumens create images and 180° panoramas, taking the spectator right in the heart of the action. 12 video projections move together with the spectators through the scenes. About nine laser projectors



generate atmospheric 3D beam effects and sophisticated 3D projections. One laser projector is even mounted onto the arm of an industrial robot; while two others are fully moveable.

Special highlights include 3D projections with laser and video, which float like hologram in mid-air, an innovative HoloFlow fog projection surface, as well as a writing water screen. Elaborately designed sceneries and numerous special effects - such as wind, fog, water dispensers and light effects - as well as three stage lifts, water fountains and a Water Screen top off the spectacle. A surround system, designed especially for the room geometry of the guest cabins, provides rich 3D sound.

Thanks to the sophisticated hardware and software architecture of LACON-5, the daily operation is entirely

automated. Moreover, LACON-5 also monitors safety aspects of the rotary drive. And with the unified control concept, the maintenance staff has direct access to every single fixture, every video projector and even every laser effect via a laptop when programming and maintaining the system.

Alexander Hennig concluded, "The Europa Park has been among our most loyal customers for many years. In more than 20 years, we have implemented together dozens of spectacular projects. Besides installations in various attractions, this also involved many show projects on a rental basis. After such a long and intense cooperation, it is a sign of trust paired with a lot of personal involvement that we had the chance to build the self-presentation of the park for their guests."

