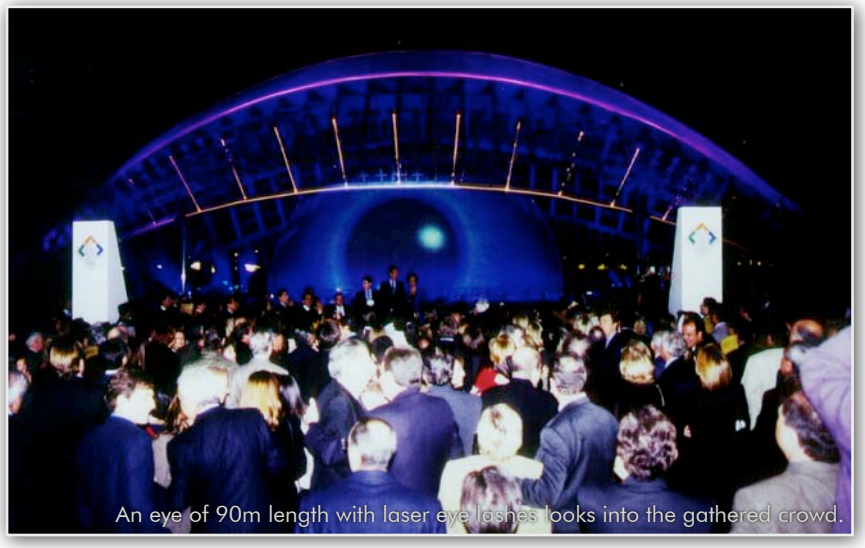
Spain´s Eye to the Universe

LOBO inaugurates Europe´s largest urban culture and leisure center.



An eye of 90m length with laser eye lashes looks into the gathered crowd.

For one day it was the main topic in Spain's media landscape: In the presence of the highest political prominence the first building of a new cultural and scientological city was inaugurated. The avantgardistic and nature oriented architecture of the park was designed by the famous Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the architect of the new radio tower in Barcelona as well as of the Expo-area in Sevilla.

The "Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias" stretches along a former river-bed in the south of Valencia. Like gigantic calyxes Calatrava placed the buildings in a park scenery dominated by water. In the nearest future about three million visitors per year will be able to meet with all facets of arts, culture and science. After being completed the area offers a "cultural palace" with more than 5.000 seats, which will secure Valencia its place under the worlds greatest opera and festival houses. Only within a few steps a science and technology museum of nearly incredible size is being built. And if this was not enough a oceanographic museum is being developed situated in an overdimensional water basin where the visitor can promenade through the oceanic fauna and flora in an underwater town with restaurants and connecting glass tunnels.

The center of the park is dominated by the "Hemispheric", a building of 90 m length and 50 m height. When reflected in the surrounding water it strongly reminds of an oversized eye. Logically, Calavatra designated a mechanism which opens and closes the "eye lid" over its full breadth. The interior of the eye consists of an IMAX-Dome combined for the first time with the most progressive planetarium techniques. As a symbol for the whole park this building should be inaugurated on 16th of April.

The internationally experienced multimedia artist Albert Ripoll I Coca was entrusted with the inauguration ceremony. With the German company LOBO from Aalen and the Caballer pyrotechnique company from Valencia Ripoll I Coca has taken on board two strong partners which are known to be very experienced in great outdoor presentations. The goal was to demonstrate the population of Valencia und the spectators of several television stations the great architecture and the designa-

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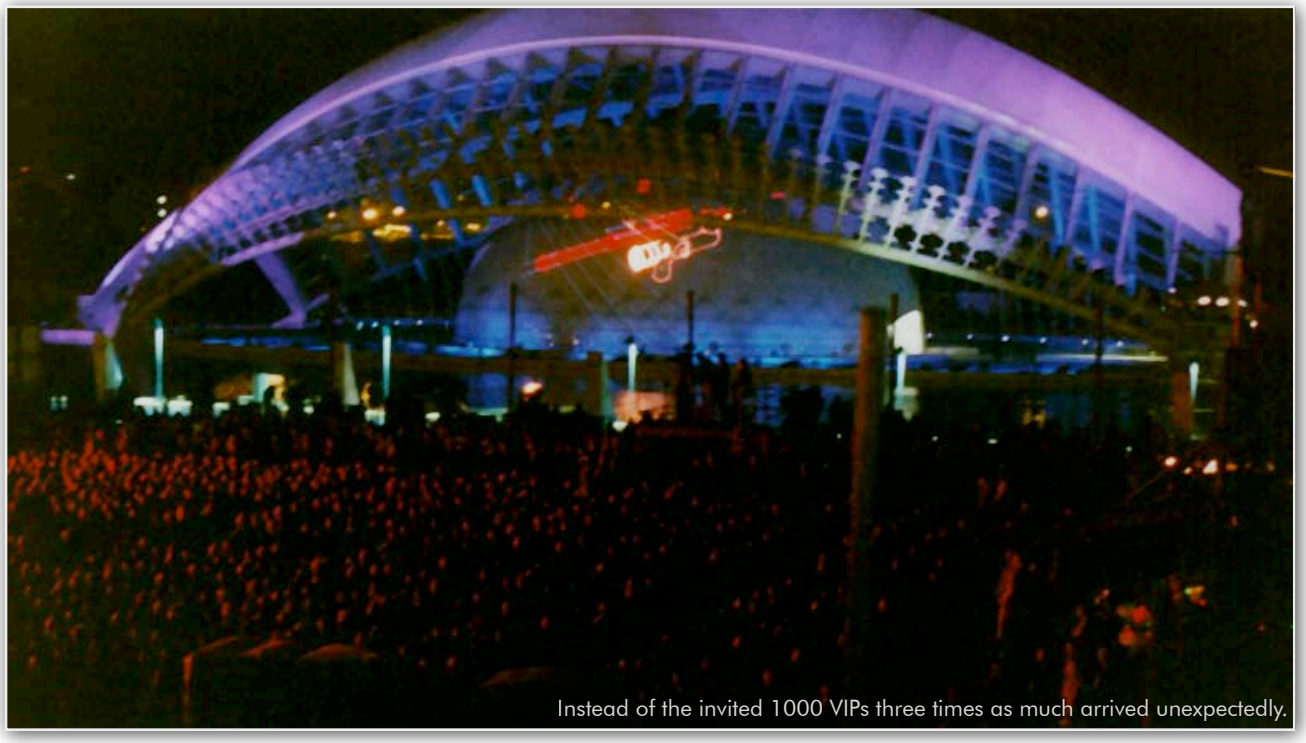
An explosion of light and colors.

tion of the building in a futuristic spectacle. For external reasons the whole conception and realization had to be completed in only 1 ½ weeks what, as a consequence, ended in a one-week series of nightshifts for all persons concerned.

On the technical side, 7 tons of fireworks, 70 kW sound equipment, 3 PANI-xenon slide projectors, 2 Barco 9020 video projectors and overall 600 kW of light for the illumination of the scenery were available. A central O.B. van allowed the audience watching television as well as the waiting present crowd to participate very realistically by means of several Jumbotron screens. Since Albert Ripoll I Coca wanted to inaugurate a futuristic park with futuristic technology he designated central importance to a technically and artistically ingenious application of the most progressive show laser techniques. At the SIB in Rimini where traditionally every year all celebrities of the laser show business assemble the Spaniard met with the German company LOBO which had already made a name for itself all over the world with its innovative technical solutions and a multitude of international awards for their laser spectacles.

Also the building site had to be illuminated.

With LOBO´s laser truck concept Ripoll I Coca could dispose of an approved solution with nearly 60 W white light



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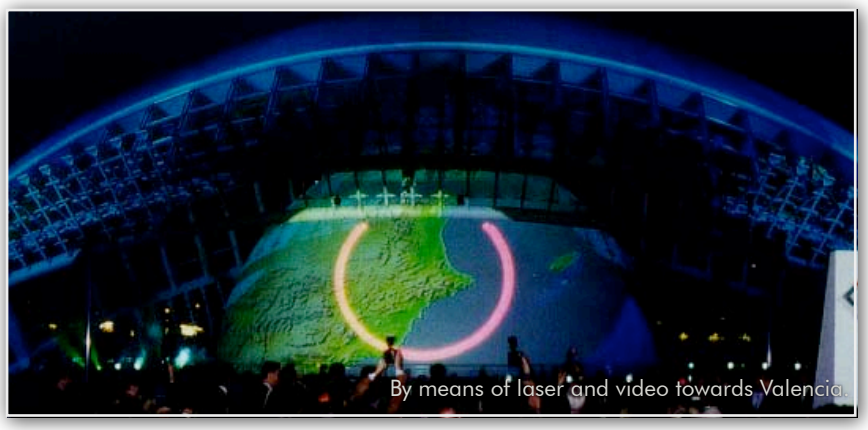
laser performance and a complete back-up system, guaranteeing sufficient laser performance as well as the best operation safety.

During set-up and programming on-site the LOBO technology was able to play off further advantages. LOBO´s setup instructor: "If we used conventional laser technology with beam tables, we would have needed a set-up time of at least 3 to 4 days. Thanks to LOBO´s unique concept of adjustment- and maintenance-free laser projectors, the laser equipment was adjusted and ready for operation after just 5 hours after the provision of energy and water. As we had only a rather tight calculated period of time for programming, this profit of time did flow directly into the quality of the show."



By means of laser and video towards Valencia.

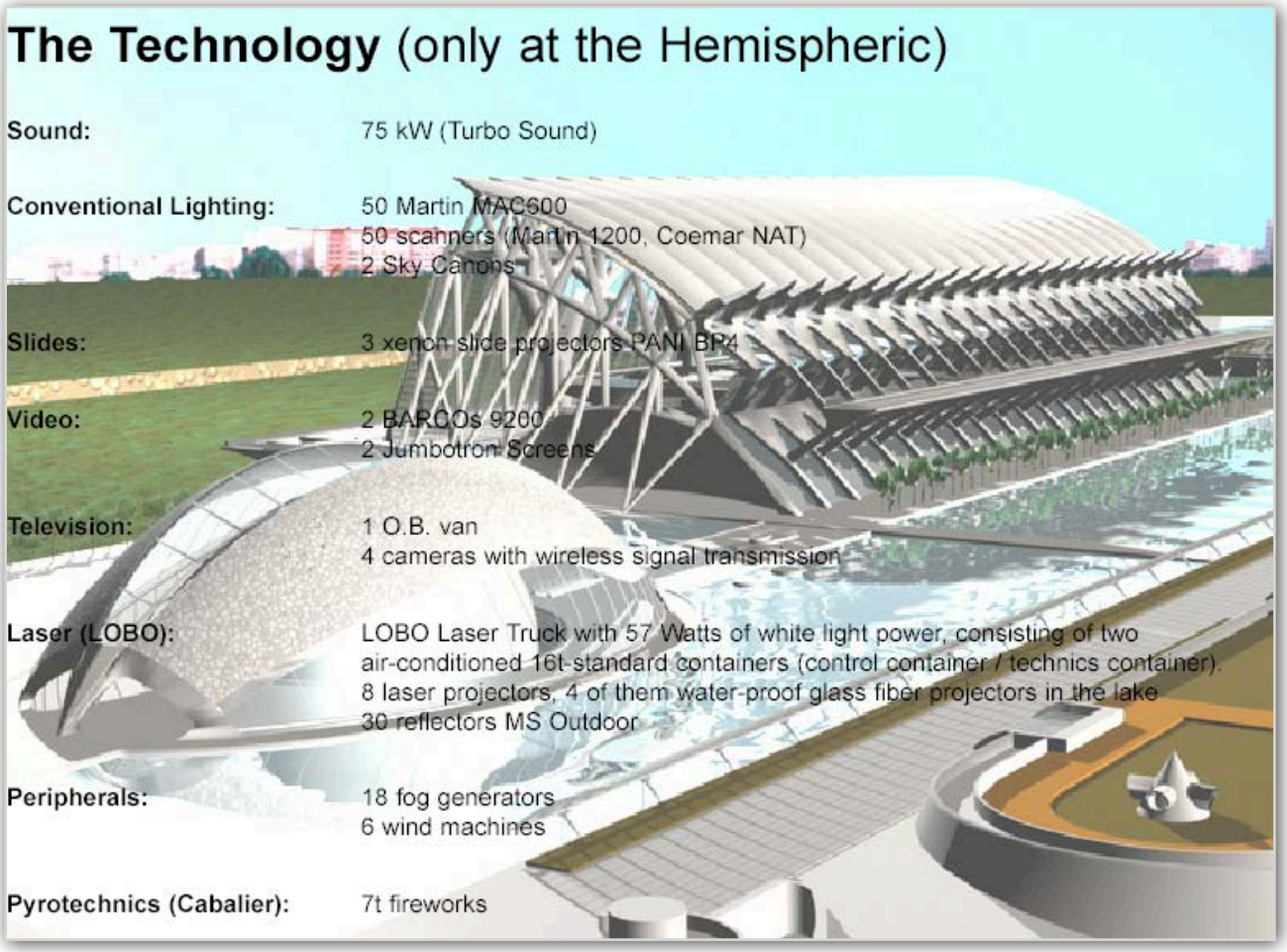
On the 16th of April at 9 p.m. the time had come: instead of the invited 1000 VIPs three times as much arrived unexpectedly. In front of the park a vast crowd pressed closely together. Live transmitted by television the Spanish Prime Minister Eduardo Zaplana stood in front of the Hemispheric, applauded by the public, pressed the famous red button and sent laser beams into the sky which - apparently reflected by the firmament - hit the center of the ball and thereby initiated the spectacle with an explosion of light and colors. Suddenly, an eye drawn by laser and video awakened, looked down on the crowd until the pupil changed into a globe which directly precipitated onto Valencia and the city of arts and science.

LOBO´s Creative-Director Alexander Hennig: "The burlesque shape of the building was like an invitation to play with shapes and colors. One time we sketched with the laser the striking silhouette of the architecture, then we shot

out of the eye lids nearly endless laser eyelashes into the sky, the other time the laser accentuated the essential parts of the video projection on the oversized eyeball."

After a classic concert of the British music genius Michael Nyman accompanied by laser and fireworks the monumental spectacle came to its end. Only a few laser beams skimming over the firmament - to be seen in a distance up to 80 km - alluded to the magnificent inauguration ceremony.

The Concert of Michael Nymann was accompaigned by fireworks.



Important Notice: All laser effects on the images derive from real photographs and have not been generated on computers.

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