

Complete lighting system of Cyprus Theatre Museum has been entrusted to Foxtrot

Paulo de Almeida, Rhine Line, Ltd., Kypr



Fig. 1: The building of Cyprus Theatre Museum is located in the Panose Solomnidese Cultural Center in the second largest Cypriot city Limassol and it is a common property of Limassol city and the Cyprus Theatre Organisation

The Cyprus Theatre Museum signifies the materialization of a life-long dream and ambition of several celebrated members of the Cyprus Theatre Organization

(THOK), the flagship of cultural development in Cyprus. Throughout the years of its existence, THOK has accumulated a significant number of artefacts of

historic value, such as costumes, period photographs as well as an extensive library of rare theatre editions. These artefacts were further enhanced by significant private collections donated for the purpose of founding a museum unique in its kind. The site where the museum is established, is the Panos Solomoniades Cultural Centre in Limassol. The building itself is an old stone-built printing factory which has been carefully restored and is currently housing exhibition spaces and various lecture halls.

The museum space was designed by a team of professionals that included an architect, a lighting designer, a curator, a theatre historian and others and the construction was executed by skilled and experienced personnel. On March 27th 2012, coinciding with World Theatre Day, the Cyprus Theatre Museum opened its doors to the public at a cer-



Fig. 2. The entrance corridor connects the renovated part of the permanent exhibition and a new building with office area and space for smaller events; modern architecture works with glass, wood and natural and artificial lighting, and the result is very interesting



Fig. 3. The interior of the museum before exhibits installing; for their preservation is important correct lighting, as well as air conditioning; a technical background leaves visible the original building structure and the roof



Fig. 4: Sober conception of renovated old buildings; large glass surfaces give a look deep insight and controlled lighting system shows old and new construction designs of museum especially at a dusk and at night

emony attended by the then-President of the Republic, Demetris Christofias.

In an attempt to create a unique and intriguing space, lighting and consequently automation, play an integral part in the design and ambiance of the museum. As an authorised partner of Teco a.s, the company Rhine Line Ltd in Cyprus was awarded this project after a rigorous tendering process. Rhine Line Ltd was responsible for delivering a complete and complex lighting control system.

The designers' driving concept was to create a dusk, theatre-like quality throughout the entire museum, accentuating selective spatial moments and artefacts. After examining the specific requirements of the lighting designer and the curator, our company's choice settled directly onto the Foxtrot system from Teco.a.s., which experience has proven to be reliable, flexible and efficient.

Theatre Halogen Spots "PAR 36" were used to illuminate particular areas and the stage models individually. Common halogen lamps were selected due to a restricted budget initially, but because of the large number of fixtures required the overall power consumption will be quite high. However, provisions were made for LED lamps to be replaced by halogen lamps at some later time.

Fixtures needed to be flexible so as to receive LED Spots lamps as well as the standard PAR 36 lamps. As such, it was decided that a special manufacture of these fixtures was essential to meet necessary requirements. The Foxtrot Lighting System provided the required con-



Fig. 5. The place, which combines history with modern architecture; controlled lighting works inside, but also models the outside facade at night



Fig. 6. Floodlights PAR 36 form direct lighting, the intensity is variable and controlled by system Tecomat Foxtrot



Fig. 7. The corridor illuminated by photographs of famous theaters

trol by means of small and powerful 0-10VDC control flush mount modules. These modules allowed the much needed flexibility for this task. Furthermore, to save excessive cabling, the flush mount modules were mounted directly above the track lighting, adjacent to the transformer. In the displays and showcases, LED Spots were added to enhance a save-lighting environment and protect certain exclusive fabrics and exhibits.

Apart from Spot lights we also used LED Strip lights to accent edges and walking paths, a special walking path for the visitors is through a mirror corridor which is illuminated by LED-DMX Spot Lights creating an amazing colourful effect.

Although outside the scope of our company's obligations but with further energy saving in mind, Rhine Line added a possibility of controlling areas by motions sensors. This modification in the software was included without further charges, but the required hardware will be purchased as soon as the museum's budget permits. This feature dims lights to a minimum when areas in the museum are not occupied by visitors or staff.

In spite of the system's technological complexity, it is imperative that its operation is easy and manageable by any staff member. It was decided that a simple on/off button which turns all the loads on and off is a good choice. To avoid overload of any circuit breakers by turning all the lights on at once, a fixed timing sequence was programmed into the PLC which turns on light zones in order.

Apart from the On/Off switch, a six-button-multi-switch which triggers pre-programmed scenarios in the PLC was also added. These scenarios can be used to create different lighting moods for dif-

ferent events like school visits, lectures, visual presentations and even small theatre performances which can take place in an area especially designed for this purpose. In case scenarios or lighting levels need to be adjusted more specifically, a cabinet enclosing an ID-18-Touchscreen from Teco.a.s was added. From this touch screen individuals with permission can have full control of the system.

Through the intelligent and flexible nature of the Foxtrot System of Teco a.s., combined with our company's custom-designed software NeoMatic, the needs and requirement of the design team and operating staff were fully satisfied in an efficient and user-friendly fashion.

Photo: Akis Charalambous Architects, Cyprus
(1 to 5), Rhine Line Ltd., Cyprus (6 to 9)



Fig. 8. The stage design models from major theaters are placed in a special display cases, illuminated by miniature lamp



Fig. 9. It was important to solve the combination of halogen and LED lighting, which respects the fragile nature of the costumes and fabrics; to strengthen friendly lighting of valuable costumes fabrics, there were added LED lamps

contact:
Jaromír Klaban, klaban@tecomat.cz.
Teco a. s., Havlíčkova 260
280 58 Kolín
www.tecomat.com

TECO
Advanced Automation