

LCI Project Report

'The Time Pirate' Xian, China



Production and Installation of Multimedia Spectacular

In February 2004 LCI were contracted to provide its most spectacular show to date. The Quijiang Development Committee of Xian, China (home to the Terracotta Army) were building a vast public park, The "Tang Paradise" and wanted a massive water show to entertain



This \$4.5 million extravaganza opened in February 2005 to an audience of 28,000. It will run nightly with expected audiences of between 2000 and 5000.

The 20 minute show, "The Time Pirate", is a fun filled time traveling adventure. It features three water screens, a huge dancing water fountain system, lasers, lighting, and fire effects. The finale also features an 80m high fountain jet..



Technical Installation

The contract was signed in February 2004 and LCI were expecting to complete in the summer of that year. The complex technical setup and the integration of a wide variety of disciplines were to provide a number of challenges.



When the site development got behind schedule the show installation had to be postponed. This meant that much of the work had to be carried out in the winter months. Technicians had to wade through freezing water and break through ice that was more than 10cm thick in order to install the fountain and flame equipment.



It took ten LCI crew and thirty five Chinese crew to pull the one thousand power and control cables through to all of the systems. A protected area within the lake was provided, being surrounded by a specially designed inflatable barrier. This allows the water to be kept at the optimum level for the fountains and effects. It also means that this part of the lake can be isolated and drained to allow the servicing of equipment. The fountains, flames, water screens, flame jets and water canons, were installed on a concrete plinth.

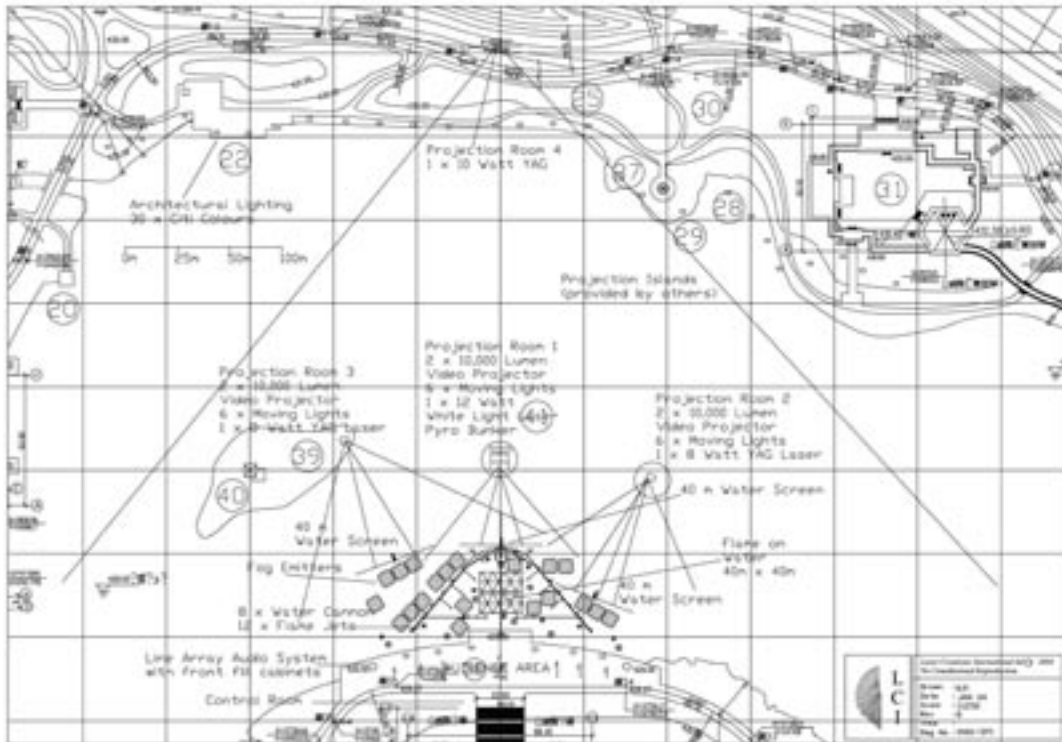
Due to the large distances involved in the Tang Paradise site, the majority of control signals are transferred by fibre optics. This allows the signals to be transferred without any noise interference.



LCI Project Report - "The Time Pirate", Xi'an, China



All LCI staff lived at the Xi'an Garden Hotel which was located approximately 2 miles from the show site. The technicians purchased bicycles locally, to speed up the journey to and from work.



Creative Development

The client asked for the show to include a journey through Chinese history and they also wanted a fun element. The initial show designs were created with close cooperation between LCI's Creative Director, Andrew Day and the Technical Director, Rob Paul, in order to utilise the very best techniques and effects available.



Animations were created to show the client what was being proposed. Following approval of the script a full story board was developed and the various characters were drawn up. As there are three Water Screens the video had to be planned and then created in three separate segments, all running in synch. A further challenge was to allow correct timings for the many special effects that feature in the show, such as flame jets and water canons. 3D animation was also utilised to create sequences of Laser Graphics. And while the video was being shot a team of character animators were bringing the 'Time Guardian' to life.



Story Boards and Character development

The show features the parks Logo Character as a 'Time Guardian'. He enlists the aid of a technician to help him stop the renegade known as 'The Time Pirate' from stealing vital objects from history and causing massive disturbances to the fabric of the Universe!

Characters from history are involved including Kublai Khan, Empress Wu and the Terracotta warriors are even brought to life to fight an epic battle with 'The Monkey King'.



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Video Production

The production moved to Beijing film studios in April 2005. An enthusiastic and highly talented cast and crew made the experience very enjoyable. Meanwhile a UK based Chinese musician, Li Jiang, was composing music for the show. He later travelled to Beijing to use highly regarded Chinese musicians to record the final pieces.



LCI Project Report - "The Time Pirate", Xi'an, China



Credits:

Technical Direction: Rob Paul
Creative Director: Andrew Day
UK Production Co-ordinator: Marlyn Weeks
Executive Producer: Chris Matthews

Show Design: Andrew Day
Video Producer: Jonathon Hercock
Production Assistant: Huang Fuang
Video Director: Tom Pollack
Story Boards: Matt Howard
Beijing Production Coordinator: Michael McDermott
Costumes & Props: Gung Ho Films
Filmed At: Beijing Film Studios

Post Production: Baraka
Character Animation: Baraka
Sound Edit: Wildtracks

Music Composed by: Li Jiang

Project Management: Rob Paul
Installation Manager: Marc Weber
Laser Programming: Martin Kapp
Lighting: Theo Cox
Show Programming Director: Nick Tuft
Fountain Choreography: Theo Cox
Fountain Engineer: Andy Bacon
Firework Design: Ian Woodroof

