



The Moscow Planetarium, Urania Museum

The Moscow Planetarium was opened on the 5th of November in 1929. In 1994 the planetarium was closed for reconstruction. The reconstruction process was interrupted for several times due to the lack of financing. Apart from facades and the interior, the building needed its base to be lifted to a height of 6 meters. The 3,000-square-meter planetarium was due to expand to 14,000 square meters while the legendary 25-meter dome, the biggest in Europe, as well as the old building, the architectural monument of federal importance, have been saved.

The reconstruction will result in the planetarium having new museums inside. One of them is Urania Museum. This is more than 1200-square meters exhibition space occupying two floors in the building that should prepare visitors for their tour to the Main Hall (Planetarium projection hall). It is to become one of the most attractive zones of Moscow Planetarium. The contractor for this area is to be responsible for project management, conceptual and interior design, integrated systems configuration, equipment supply, installation and startup, maintenance and technical support, multimedia software development.

A3V was chosen to accomplishing this major project as General contractor and main AV systems integrator due to the company's capability to offer turnkey solution and the great experience of working within the heritage market and quality services.

The Moscow Planetarium has been reopened after 17 years of renovation on the 12th of June 2011. It is expected to become the world's biggest and most technically advanced building of its kind, accepting more than 1.2 million visitors every year.

Major project installations

Multimedia showcases

Visitors start their tour on the museum's ground floor where placed three specially-designed multimedia showcases with G+B pronova HoloPro projection screens integrated into the glass. CASIO Green Slim projectors and mirror systems are mounted in the top light-boxes. SpinetiX HMP media players are the source of the multimedia content about the principles of astronomical instruments. All equipment are connected to the CUE control network through Wi-Fi.

Installation "AstroWall"

This installation on the ground floor tells visitors about the modern techniques of space exploration. The installation integrates four NEC LCD 40-inch displays mounted on the wall next to each other, Panphonics directional audio speakers on ceiling, one for each display, and SpinetiX HMP digital signage media players as the source of the HD content.

Installation “The Solar system”

This interactive installation on the first floor helps visitors to explore planets of Solar system in details. The installation integrates specially-designed 18,5-inch interactive touch kiosk in portrait mode, 4x4 video wall, track lighting system on ceiling, Zumtobel DALI-controlled light spots, Alcorn McBride solid state Digital Video Machine HD media player and models of Solar System planets in scale placed on tilted surface. The entire installation is controlled by CUE system controller. Visitors select the planet by means of a touch screen, and see presentation on the video wall. The selected planet model is highlighted by light spots. LCD displays with large borders were specially selected for this installation – the video wall and lightboxes over windows looks like in the same design.

Lighting solutions

According to the customer requirements the hall on the first floor should be isolated from the daylight. For this purpose were produced specially-designed ultrathin LED lightboxes with cosmic objects printed over. Totally more than 200 square meters! They were installed over all windows.

All art compositions on two floors are dynamically highlighted by DALI-controlled light spots according to the scenario from the dedicated CUE system controller. There is more than 350 meters of light tracks installed on the ceiling with 200 light spots fixed in it.

Multitouch table

Specially-designed multitouch table was developed to run multimedia program “Star Atlases”. It utilized NEC LCD display and NextWindow optical overlay. Its design follows the design of showcases around.

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