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Crystal Fountains

Longwood Gardens Pennsylvania enjoy a spectacular lighting installation by Crystal Fountains.

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Reform Clu

Connected Light delivers 'vibrant' lighting for London's Reform Club.

stablished in 1836, the Reform Club in Pall Mall is one of London's most celebrated private members' clubs. Today its membership numbers total nearly 3,000. Among its many attributes it boasts one of the largest private libraries in England, at last count exceeding 85.000 volumes.

The Club recently underwent a historically sensitive restoration initiative, under the project leadership of club member Anthony Capo-Bianco. Capo-Bianco's vision was to bring the Grade I listed interiors back to life through a thoughtful conservation approach. It was determined that lighting was to play a pivotal role in the refurbishment, using a soft, warm, three-dimensional glow that would attract visitors to look at architectural details, artworks and paintings through fresh eyes.

Connected Light was enlisted to devise a new lighting specification for the space. The Club was subject to exacting conservation guidelines, but by collaborating with both Historic England and Westminster City Council, the company was

able to deliver a solution that met heritage requirements.

"We worked closely with both organisations to meet their strict guidelines and criteria to achieve listed building consent," recalls Richard Ludlow, Director at Connected Light, a heritage lighting expert and who took the lead on this project. "In our final design, we have a series of multiple LED spotlights that cross-wash a total of 18 listed portraits, which lends a new level of illumination to these extraordinary paintings."

As a milestone installation in terms of Grade I listed interiors, Connected Light's specification was based around a multiple source, cross-wash solution that engenders the desired threedimensional look. Each of the fittings is the size of a thumb and is therefore very unobtrusive.

"Then through the use of a multiple scanner, the lighting can be programmed to change in real-time, complementing the daily routine and usage of the building," explains Ludlow. "This also allows the performance and energy usage of the system to be fully optimised.



This way the client is enjoying a more thoughtfully designed illumination that is also more cost efficient."

For Capo-Bianco, the lighting has recreated the "sense of theatre" intended by architect Charles Barry's original 1841 design. "The portraits were previously flat and obscure, but now the famous figures of the past are now ready to step out of their frames. Once dark and out of sight, the splendid coffered ceilings, swags and pilaster capitals are now vibrant and alive."

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