



Fibre Optic Lighting

All the advantages of fibre optic lighting have been exemplified in this installation which include: total care in conservation, excellent energy efficiency, minimal and easy maintenance, flexibility, discreet and elegant lighting, assured safety and durability and optimum light quality.

Absolute Action Winter Dining Room Hatfield House

Fibre optics have long been considered one of the preferred lighting tools for conservation applications, and few precious exhibits require more care in this respect than fragile tapestries.

When requested to review the best options for lighting the celebrated Four Seasons Tapestries in the Winter Dining Room at Hatfield House, Absolute Action quickly realised that more could be achieved in the process, which would be of great benefit to the whole space.

Four substantial fibre optic lighting systems were specified using the company's new high CRI, high intensity LED light-sources. From their locations outside the room, Absolute Action worked with Hatfield House's dedicated maintenance team to conceal the fibre bundles inside the usefully hollow beams. Individual fibres were then distributed throughout the bespoke fibre optic track hardware that was fitted to the beam surfaces.

From each of the four source lamps, more than 45 individual lights were generated, and since only 20 of these were required to deliver a soft, diffused light covering across each of the tapestries, plenty were left over for other features in the room. Thus, every painting, the stunning carved chimney piece, and all the items of peripheral furnishings and objets d'art were illuminated from the same original four systems. These systems will continue to fulfil the same function, unimpaired, for literally generations to come.

Variable optical lenses with greater or lesser degrees of focus were applied to each fibre tip to suit its given application, with component hardware being painted out to match the dark wooden beams and concealed from general view.

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Now, using the glorious central chandelier and just the fibre optic lighting systems, the whole space is suffused with gentle and well-balanced lighting, which delivers a beautiful warmth and brings out the full richness, as well as the subtlety, of colours from every surface.

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We investigate some recent fibre optic projects, looking at how this unique type of lighting has improved spaces both new and old.



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Left: Before Absolute Action upgraded lighting.

Right: After new lighting is installed.

