



Nasher Sculpture Center Purchases State-of-the-Art Technology



When Raymond Nasher commissioned his \$70 million sculpture center in Dallas, Texas, downtown Arts District, he engaged only the elite among professionals to design and build the indoor and outdoor galleries. The facilities would be home to the Nasher's \$400 million collection of over 300 works including pieces by Picasso, Rodin, Degas and Matisse. The galleries would also exhibit priceless collections on loan from galleries around the world.

Italian travertine stone walls within glass-roofed pavilions that showcase the artwork in specially diffused natural light provide an elegant backdrop for the artwork while presenting special challenges for the team designing and installing HVAC systems.

For the Nasher museum, extremely tight tolerances of temperature and humidity would have to be maintained, both for the permanent collection and to meet insurance specifications for collections on loan.

Hardware systems had to be highly effective and reliable yet completely inconspicuous. And the customer wanted the industry's finest, easy-to-use software that was robust enough to provide for both current and future needs. Local service, support and training were pluses the museum also hoped to find in its HVAC provider.

The Solution

Tour Andover Controls offered the only solution that met all the customer's requirements in terms of performance, aesthetics, versatility and longevity, cost-effectiveness and intuitive user controls. LONWORKS technology provides the open system the Nasher team viewed as essential for future expansion and integration with variable frequency drives, chillers and sophisticated lighting controls.

Special conduits, installed along complex duct routes in the stone walls, and hidden diffusers ensure thorough air circulation without exposing artwork to direct air flow. Specially fabricated button sensors are hidden in the walls to monitor conditions continuously and provide feedback to the TAC Vista® software.

Temperatures are maintained within the insurance-specified 20°C to 23°C (68°F to 74°F) range. Steam humidifiers allow the system to ensure that humidity remains between the required 45% and 55% with no more than a five percent change in any 24-hour period. The Tour Andover Controls team focused special attention on maintaining conditions and limiting bleed-over in the interfaces between areas with dramatically different environmental requirements.

The TAC Vista front-end delivers flexible control both at two operator workstations and via remote access. While the owner depends on Tour Andover Controls to make database modifications – as well as provide responsive local service and support – he uses the TAC

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Vista software independently to create custom charts, graphs and trend logs for gallery records.

The Bottom Line

Environmental controls at the Nasher Sculpture Center provide precise conditions for artwork and patrons alike, creating a world-class experience like no other. The Tour Andover Controls system will make it easy for the Nasher to grow and upgrade its facilities within an advanced, LON-based open system framework offering superior performance at a competitive price.

Customer Benefits

- Precise yet inconspicuous environmental control
- Flexibility to expand
- Local and remote system access
- Interoperability with other systems
- Graphical interface to simplify execution of complex sequences

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