



Light for moving stories

Bespoke ERCO lighting solutions showcase art and remembrance with exceptional colour accuracy and flexibility

Project data

Project:
Fenix Museum, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Architecture:
MAD Architects, Beijing, China

Restoration and consultation:
Bureau Polderman, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Lighting design:
Beersnielsen Lichtontwerpers, Rotterdam, Netherlands

Electrical planning:
Bosman, Amersfoort, Netherlands

Products:
Parscan spotlights, Optec spotlights

Photography:
Lukas Palik

With Fenix Museum, Rotterdam has not only created another architectural landmark, but also an extraordinary place for art and remembrance. The art and cultural centre is dedicated to the global history of migration. It occupies a restored 1923 Holland-America Line warehouse on Rotterdam's Katendrecht peninsula. The museum was designed by Chinese architecture firm MAD Architects, who capped the building with the "Tornado", a mirrored double-helix staircase featuring a viewing platform. Rising prominently above the premises, it offers visitors a panoramic view over the city and harbour. The diverse and impressive exhibition spaces within the museum, which opened in 2025, are perfectly staged by ERCO LED track spotlights.

Within the 172-metre-long building, approximately 7,000 square metres across two levels were outfitted with ERCO lighting tools; around 1,000 LED [track spotlights](#) were installed. "Part of the brief was to integrate as few installations as possible into the historic architecture," explains lighting designer Juliette Nielsen of Beersnielsen Lichtontwerpers. "Therefore, we utilised existing openings in the concrete structure for cable trays and tracks." All tracks in the exhibition areas

are aligned uniformly; yet the varied exhibits appear freely placed – and will be rearranged for each future exhibition.

From paintings to passports: A versatile range of spotlights masters a wide array of exhibition scenarios

On the upper floor, the opening exhibition "All Directions: Art That Moves You" brings together a wide variety of works: Alongside a decommissioned bus turned walk-in sculp-

ture and a section of the Berlin Wall, the exhibition features paintings such as a Rembrandt behind glass, photographic and video works, and small exhibits like a passport in a showcase. To address this diversity, the lighting designer implemented a continuous lighting concept combining diffuse general lighting with flexible accent lighting. And with the consistent choice of a particularly versatile LED spotlight from ERCO that provides all the necessary light distributions and illumination levels in a uniform design.

"[Parscan](#) from ERCO is a product line that impresses with its flexibility and range," says the lighting designer.

She personally handled the placement and fine alignment of each spotlight in the lead-up to the museum opening. Parscan spotlights, in two housing sizes and wattages from 8W to 48W, were employed uniformly in neutral white 4000K.

Colours like daylight: Precise colour presentation with high colour temperature and high colour rendering index (CRI 97)

As part of the "[ERCO individual](#)" service, all [Parscan spotlights](#) were customised to deliver an enhanced CRI 97 (rather than the standard CRI 92) at Beersnielsen Lichtontwerpers' request. Combined with the 4000K colour temperature, this results in vivid and highly accurate colour reproduction.

"The customised Parscans with 4000K/CRI 97 emit a bright, neutral light, that blends well with daylight," explains Juliette Nielsen. She also worked with high illuminance levels to accommodate the special daylight situation in the upper-floor exhibition spaces, with high ceilings and large glass surfaces in the facade and the shed roofs. "From a curatorial perspective, there were no concerns/no lux restrictions, so we were able to use the larger Parscan (48W) version here," according to the lighting designer.

To ensure optimal display of each exhibit and consistent illumination across artworks in rooms up to six metres high, the decision was made to predominantly use spot and narrow-spot distributions. For the sharply defined illumination of very small exhibits, such as the passport behind glass, [Optec contour spotlights](#) (28W) were used.

Customisable, flexible and durable: Why ERCO spotlights impress

The "Suitcase Maze" installation on the museum's ground floor consists of a labyrinth of some 2,000 suitcases that visitors can explore. Information points placed throughout the space recount personal escape stories. Given the lower ceiling height and reduced daylight in this exhibition room, a smaller (24W) [Parscan](#) model was used. Spotlights with oval-flood distribution provide ambient lighting, while those with narrow-spot distribution draw attention to specific details, such as the info points.

In the adjoining room, nearly 200 black-and-white photographs from the "The Family of Migrants" exhibition are on display. These images, printed on transparent gauze and suspended throughout the space, can be appreciated from both front and back. There is deliberately no general ambient lighting in this room. Each photograph is individually highlighted by [Parscan spotlights](#) set to spot and narrow-spot distributions. The spotlights are precisely aligned to prevent any shadowing on photographs positioned behind. "The challenge was to balance differently sized and lit photographs by varying the light intensity", explains the lighting designer. "That's why nearly every image received its own spotlight", she adds. "We chose ERCO spotlights not only for their customisation options and flexibility, but also because they are easy to install, robust and long-lasting." Longevity is critical in museum operations to minimise both energy usage and maintenance demands: ERCO luminaires, featuring advanced technology, sturdy components and bespoke opto-electronics, are engineered for long-term operation.

Luminaires used in the project



Parscan Spotlight



Optec Contour
Spotlights

About ERCO

ERCO is an international specialist for high-quality and digital architectural lighting. The family-owned company, founded in 1934, operates globally in 55 countries with independent sales organisations and partners.

ERCO understands light as the fourth dimension of architecture – and thus as an integral part of sustainable building. Light is the contribution to making society and architecture better and, at the same time, preserving our environment. ERCO Greenology® – the corporate strategy for sustainable lighting – combines ecological responsibility with technological expertise.

At the light factory in Lüdenscheid, Germany, ERCO develops, designs and manufactures luminaires with a focus on photometric

optics, electronics and sustainable design. The lighting tools are developed in close collaboration with architects, lighting designers and electrical designers. They are used primarily in the following applications: Work and Culture, Community and Public/Outdoor, Contemplation, Living, Shop and Hospitality. ERCO lighting experts support designers worldwide in transforming their projects into reality with highly precise, efficient and sustainable lighting solutions.

If you require any further information on ERCO or image material, please visit us at www.ercos.com/press. We can also provide you with material on projects worldwide for your media coverage.

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