ArcSine engineering

Featured Project

Weaverville Joss House Historic Park
California State Parks

Weaverville, California

Weaverville Joss House, a Taoist Temple, is considered the oldest, continuously used original Chinese house of worship in California. The current Joss House was built in 1874, after previous structures had been destroyed by a series of fires. Since the temple became a unit of the California State Park system in 1956, many of the historical objects have been restored and the structure itself stabilized. The true historical significance of the Joss House is that during China's Cultural Revolution, many of the old rural-style temples were dismantled or destroyed. The Weaverville Joss House is an intact and complete temple of that era, which no longer exists in many parts of China.

In the mid-1800s gold was discovered on a sandbar in the Trinity River, and the following gold rush duplicated those in other parts of California; some of the gold seekers came from China. By 1865 mining began to fade as a source of income, so many Chinese left Weaverville to work on the Central and Union Pacific Railroads.

Because of our expertise in lighting design and our thorough understanding of lighting controls, California State Parks asked ArcSine Engineering to design an upgrade for power distribution and lighting for the Joss House. The lighting system was designed to minimize exposure to sensitive textile artifacts, while providing proper lighting levels for museum visitors. Lamp and filter selection, and occupancy sensors with automatic dimming, were two of the designed features. Fiber optic light sources were used to provide illumination of selected artifacts.

Below are listed some key features to the project:

- ArcSine's design resulted in a modular phased approach so that improvements could be made piece-by-piece as budgets allowed.

- Lighting levels, controls, and lamp selection were based on recommendations of the NEDCC, the IES, and other industry standards for sensitive artifact protection and preservation.

Electrical Lighting