

Hereford Cathedral illumination

In 2004, the Dean & Chapter of Hereford Cathedral approached Melcon Hereford Ltd to design a lighting scheme to architecturally light the external facades of the building and its surrounding areas.

Following consultation with the governing bodies and the Dean & Chapter with design concepts discussed, fund raising started by Hereford Cathedral Perpetual Trust, and grants were kindly issued by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with regeneration works starting on the Cathedral Close in 2009.

The specification for the lighting was to architecturally illuminate the various facades of the Cathedral using low power consumption energy efficient light fittings with a low maintenance factor, positioned so they would highlight what is a beautiful building and give it a new dimension along with the area itself.

LED light fittings were chosen following many lighting trials, and a mixture of recessed ingress protected in-ground light fittings were used at ground level and surface LED fittings positioned on the roofs, hidden from view so the source of the light could not be seen.

The control system operating the installation is capable of mixing the colours of the spectrum within the light fittings so the correct colour rendering and intensity of light could be achieved as required at the individual areas to enhance that area of the building and its stone work carvings etc. and give it a three dimensional effect.



The control system is also programmed so the lighting automatically turns on and off at sunset etc, through the seasons without any user input, but can be overridden if required.

Alongside the illumination works of the Cathedral, regeneration works of the Cathedral Close itself were being undertaken involving landscaping works and re-lighting the area due to its poorly lit condition.

Also power distribution points were installed in various areas of the close using in-ground pop up sockets, in order to facilitate power supply consumption for the various external events the Cathedral have at different times.

Lighting columns were chosen and installed throughout the Cathedral Close with light fitting tops chosen to compliment the area and the building, RAL colored in the Hereford Cathedral blue as per our client's request.

The column lighting illuminates the area softly along with the Sir Edward Elgar statue and the Cathedral facades, making it an area that can be used more safely at all times, and gives the people of Hereford and its visitors an area of tranquil and contemplative public space in the City, being at the heart of a rural community.



In October 2011 the Cathedral Close regeneration works were completed and the areas opened to the public with the lighting officially switched on, following a spectacular firework display and events organized by the Cathedral throughout that day.

In July 2012 the close was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh while on their tour of the country on Her Majesty's Diamond Anniversary Year celebrations.

Having worked on this building for many years and seen and heard our client's joy with the end results on this project it gave us great pleasure to work alongside our client and bring it to fruition.

