



If These Walls Could Talk, They Would Thank CeeLite Exhibit Backlighting Application

Once upon a time, in a place called “Railroad Island,” there was a house that had more stories than its generations of residents. Built in 1887, this house felt each wind of change that blew against its shingles and witnessed history as it evolved.



On January 14, 2006, the Minnesota Historical Society opened an exhibit embodying the phrase, “if these walls could talk,” by turning the home into an interactive, educational exhibit. Visitors to this display learned about the daily lives of the families who lived in the home and the historical events they witnessed.



Creating an interactive exhibit resembling the structure of the original house was a challenging endeavor. Each section showcased a different era and featured multimedia and photographs to supplement the historical information.

To increase visibility in the exhibit, lighting designer, Richard Rummel, had to find light sources that would effectively backlight these photographs and false windows. Because of the dimensions of the walls, flat panel lighting was the only feasible option for this project; however, Rummel had become frustrated with the poor color rendering and color temperature he experienced with non-fluorescent panel lighting products. When he finally discovered CeeLite, he was thrilled with the quality and aesthetic attributes of the flat, flexible light bulb.

CeeLite's LEC (Light Emitting Capacitor) technology made it possible to create and apply lighting to the graphics while maintaining the integrity of the photos' colors. The six, 24" x 36" illuminated panels were so thin that the structure of the windows and walls did not require any additional modifications, making it the perfect choice for the exhibit. Additionally, the dimming features of the product could be utilized to create different moods in each room.

When "Open House: If These Walls Could Talk" opened in January, the CeeLite panels became an integral part of the exhibit. The graphics and windows, which at first seemed impossible to light, were now highly visible to museum patrons. The CeeLite panels also contributed to the ambiance of the exhibit by creating different lighting moods in each section of the house.



Overall, the design staff was very impressed with the look of the graphics in the exhibit and the flexibility of the CeeLite panels.

"The CeeLite panels provided a lighting solution to a very constrained space," said Rummel. "Without a flat panel lighting source, the shallow depth of the wall cavity would have prevented us from backlighting the windows. CeeLite fit the space and did a great job of lighting the graphics."

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