

## **The National Trust Dyrham Park – Transformation Project (Lighting)**

<b>Lighting Design</b>	David Atkinson Lighting Design (DALD)
<b>Designers</b>	Hara Clark
<b>Graphics</b>	Fernando Lai Couto
<b>Conservation Architect</b>	Nick Cox Architects
<b>M&amp;E Consultants</b>	E3 Consulting Engineers
<b>Lighting Suppliers</b>	Enliten, MJ Lighting, UFO
<b>Fit Out Contractor</b>	Scena
<b>Electrical Contractors</b>	Greater London Electrical PRW Electrical Services

Dyrham Park has been brought back to its 17th-century life once more thanks to a massive project to revitalise, restore and reimagine the Baroque house. Following the roof replacement in 2016, the house has been returned to its former glory as created by owner William Blathwayt in the late 1600s by telling its stories, showcasing its collection, and highlighting its historic features.

The main restoration works completed included:

- Staircases being re-stabilised and restored.
- Walls and panelling have been made to look like high quality wood through a highly-skilled and painstaking process of re-graining, involving fine brushes and feathers.
- Paintings have been cleaned, repositioned, and rehung.
- Key rooms have been redecorated to historic designs.
- A beautifully crafted trompe-l'oeil screen has been created to represent Blathwayt's highly-ornate long-lost Japan Closet that was once there. It includes exquisite floral and striped silk hangings and striking blue-black paint, colour-matched to the original, overlaid with gold decoration based on 17th-century designs.

The lighting has played a vital part in illuminating collection items, allowing previously hidden details to be enjoyed once more but equally adhering to strict conservation levels.

Lighting consultancy team at David Atkinson Lighting Design (DALD) worked closely with the designers, conservation architects and National Trust to improve the visitor experiences by subtle and sensitive design to deliver effective light levels without modern intrusion and not detract in any way from the splendour of the beautiful interiors.

DALD designed custom free-standing fittings that would not be directly attached to the fabric of the building. The fixtures were developed after extensive site testing to established that a mixture of warm 2400K & 2700K LED modules with gimbaled optics within a simple tube design would be used throughout the property.

Various rooms were lit including the bed chambers from low level remote lighting sources, positioned into custom designed barrier boxes for illumination of tapestries, furniture, architectural features, and paintings. The fixtures chosen were simple small theatrical sources fitted with locally controlled dimmable Low voltage LED lamps and colour correction filters.

At the early part of the design process it was established that two Georgian chandeliers, which had been in safe storage would be electrified, rehung, and fitted with specialist dimmable LED candle lamps be reinstated into the Great Hall and the Gilt Leather Parlour.

In addition to the two Georgian chandeliers in the Great Hall high level cove lighting up lights the ceiling in a warm 2700K colour temperature. This helps add depth to the space as well as raising the ambient level which is balance with the sharpness of the chandeliers through the Casambi control system.

A real sense of drama is created in the Gilt Leather Closet with the reveal of Samuel van Hoogstraten's (1662) trompe l'oeil perspective painting "A view through a house". The reveal consists of a triggered lighting sequence replicating the opening of a shutter with light crossing the painting.

**General Manager Tom Boden said:** 'The work done is a triumph. The quality of the restoration, conservation, re-graining, lighting, fires, candles, new furniture, trompe l'oeil walls, flooring and all the new interpretation that has now been installed, really is breathtaking and collectively it makes the house and collection sparkle. So much has been achieved.'