





La Biblioteca Marciana di Venezia

Venice, Italy

One of the most culturally significant libraries in the world, La Biblioteca Marciana di Venezia has been given a new lighting scheme, designed by **Romano Baratta Lighting Studio**, utilising fixtures from **formalighting**.

La Biblioteca Marciana di Venezia is one of the oldest and most important libraries in the world. It is the custodian for Italian masterpieces of art such as works by Tiziano, Tintoretto, Veronese, as well as extraordinary globes and maps like the *Mappamondo* of Fra Mauro, considered the world's most precious cartographic document, also called *The Gioconda of Maps*.

The project was set on a "Museum Scale" and an "Emotional Scale". It allows for visitors to explore what is physically present while also evoking emotion and sensations. The aim is to create a deeply emotional experience for visitors that will long be remembered. The lighting scheme has been created to immerse visitors in the history of the piece and be carried away on a journey into the world of knowledge.

The lighting, designed by Romano Baratta Lighting Studio, physically enhances the architecture of the piece, supporting a holistic experience for visitors. Through the automated system of visual scenarios, and perspective guidance through the light itself, visitors can discover and admire the 16th century architecture through targeted focuses, before diving into the masterpieces.

The new lighting has made it possible to grasp, as never before, how spectacular the blue of the seas are when compared to the stark whiteness of the parchment. The greatest challenge was to avoid shadows and reflections on the art masterpiece. As well as showcasing the beautiful artwork, the uniqueness of this library needed to be conveyed. It was not by chance that Tiziano painted on the vaulted ceiling of the Vestibolo La Sapienza.

In the 16th century, being enlightened with knowledge and wisdom had a divine origin. For this reason, the designer planned the light to appear miraculously, illuminating the philosophers, figures and ancient roman monuments – as if ordaining them with wisdom. This particular ceiling painting is in an incredible architectural trompe l'oeil. The new lighting design enhances this architectural perspective and pays tribute to this artwork's careful restoration completed in 2019.

One of the most exciting elements of this project is how it has reshaped the understanding of museum lighting. In this new way of thinking, a museum is not only lighting the works on display, but also lighting a living place with a history embedded in its architecture. To achieve this, it is necessary to bring out the hidden but intriguing elements of the works and the space itself. A carefully crafted lighting design can create a narrative and profound experience, not just the highlighting of artwork. It brings together the lighting of the exhibition and the enhancement of the pieces, with the overall atmosphere and experience for visitors.

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