

CASE STUDY

South Korea's Suwon Hwaseong Media Art Show sheds new light on historic landmark with Disguise

Connecting an iconic building from the past with impressive new technology from Disguise, an art show in South Korea offered vibrant visions that seamlessly fit complex architecture.



At a glance

In this case study you will discover how Disguise partners BasicTech, in collaboration with Suwon Cultural Foundation and related government parties in Korea, were able to create a magical experience for audiences powered by Disguise 4x4PRO media servers.

Suwon Cultural Foundation faced a challenge when putting together a vibrant visual display that would form a major part of a media art event at UNESCO World Heritage site Hwaseong Fortress, twenty kilometers away from Seoul. Their video imagery - an animation that considered the past, present and future of the area - needed to be projected onto the fortress itself in an amazing projection show.

Inspired by King Jeong-jo of the Joseon dynasty, who had built the fortress between 1794 and 1796, the production planned to use the 220 metre-long outside wall of the fortress as a canvas. The team aimed to produce a projection show lasting almost twenty-five minutes and featuring dynamic motifs including the building of the fortress before the audience's eyes, as well as a dramatic appearance by a golden dragon.

BasicTech mapped the projections on an incredibly complex structure, with the help of Disguise, to create a spectacular show drawing in over 310,000 visitors within 26 days to the world heritage site.



The challenge

Projecting content onto complex surfaces

This sort of projection presented plenty of challenges when attempted on simple modern structures, but Hwaseong Fortress is an elaborate and complex 18th century building with curved walls and delicately formed features.

Protecting the site and the neighborhood

Since Suwon Hwaseong Fortress was located in a residential area, the team was concerned about generating noise that will spread.

Also, since the show made use of Hwaseong Fortress, which is a UNESCO World Heritage, there were concerns about damaging the site.

Additionally, due to Covid-19, social distancing measures such as restricted seating arrangements and gate sterilisers had to be put into place.



The solution

Seeking to wrap their projections around the mixture of straight and curved lines that formed the west gate of the fortress, the team turned to Disguise's Designer software. Disguise's flexibility meant their 4x4PRO media servers with six DVI outputs had no difficulty working with third party projectors from Barco in order to realise the vision of the projection.

This meant that although the building was a complex shape, with projections twisting around curved corners and even stretching onto the angled, tiled roof, the projected content was seamless from end-to-end, with no elements distorted by the building's features.



“We found the Disguise tech was perfectly suited to what we needed. We were able to map all the WARP points necessary to create imagery that wrapped the building, which was very helpful for the work.”

Mr. Jong Hyun Yoon
Visual Rental Business Executive Manager

The results

The team had extra peace of mind in their ability to control every element of the production. Through Disguise's Designer software, every step could be pre-visualised in advance. Changes could be checked as soon as they were made, and the five content teams involved in creating the show were able to have every confidence in the quality of their final product before the projector was even switched on.

Through Disguise's seamless workflow and the various pilot tests and pre-rehearsals conducted by the team at BasicTech to find the optimal implementation of the show for the building, they were able to deliver a successful show while keeping the structure and splendour of the Hwaseong Fortress intact.

“Disguise’s media servers offer powerful performances such as a STAGE window that can be visually checked immediately. It was also easier to sequence our timeline in real-time than it would have been using other media servers,” Yoon says.



Success

An 18th century fortress was brought to life by modern technology. The result was an incredibly successful production that spanned the length of the fortress walls, sending digital vines up them one moment, and dropping vibrant computer-generated ribbons down them the next. In spite of ongoing Covid-19 regulations, over 310,000 people visited the festival, which was awarded first place for overall satisfaction by the Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea. The production team has no doubt that their ability to project beautiful images from the fortress's storied past had a major part to play as the festival brought history to life for its attendees.

220

metre-long
projection canvas

300k+

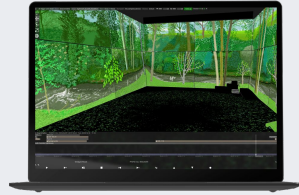
people attended
the festival

1st

place
awarded for overall
satisfaction



Disguise equipment used



DESIGNER

Designer is the ultimate software to visualise, design, and sequence projects at every stage, from concept all the way through to showtime.

[Find out more](#) →



4X4PRO

Capable of driving up to 16 HD LED processors for large video surfaces, the 4x4PRO served as actor and understudy machines backstage.

[Find out more](#) →

In Partnership with

Cultural Heritage Administration of Korea

Suwon-si, Suwon Cultural Foundation

Production Directing Team: BasicTech

BasicTech

Visual Rental Business Executive Manager:

Jong Hyeon Yoon

3D Simulation Designer (Mapping Matter):

Jong Seong Yun, Hwi Jin Hwang, Dae Won Lee



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Need support on your project?**

Our team will be happy to speak to you,
whatever your query.

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