

LASCAUX IV: TROX CLIMATE PRESERVES PREHISTORIC CAVE PAINTINGS

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In the Dordogne's Vézère valley in southwestern France you can find the world-famous cave of Lascaux. It contains the most outstanding prehistoric paintings known to man. The original cave is, however, no longer open to the general public since the increasing number of visitors had a negative impact on the climate in the cave and threatened to eventually destroy the artworks. France has now built a museum which is a replica of the cave. It is called Lascaux IV and scheduled to open before the end of this year.

The architecture of the ten exhibition rooms with a faithful copy of the Stone Age paintings is true to the original. Yet not only the architecture is supposed to evoke an impression of being in the original cave, but also the climate.

This is why the building owner decided to rely on TROX technology to ensure a constant climate with a temperature of 16 °C and 90 % humidity. 21 X-CUBE air handling units provide the museum with 130,000 m³ of conditioned air per hour. Splitter sound attenuators of Types XSA and MSA ensure that the ventilation and air conditioning is inaudible. The cave-like architecture required the TROX experts to install many different systems in order to maintain a constant and pleasant climate. VAV air terminal units of Type TVR and CAV controllers of Type VFL ensure a constant airflow. Air is supplied by DUK jet nozzles. XARTO ceiling swirl diffusers have also been installed. These diffusers have fixed blades and allow for a four-way horizontal air discharge. The VDL swirl diffusers have adjustable blades which can be set precisely by actuators such that the required volume flow rate and exact airflow direction are achieved. Other TROX components in the museum include VSD slot diffusers and QL-WE-O displacement flow diffusers.

The Lascaux project has been a very special challenge for TROX France, and not only because of the complex technical requirements. Being able to participate in a project of such cultural and historic dimensions has been a great motivation for the TROX team in Rungis, near Paris.



The upper Paleolithic cave of Lascaux, in the French Département Dordogne, contains some of the oldest paintings known to man. The paintings are estimated to be around 20,000 years old.



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