

special effects

Projects

## Capturing the image

**LED Light Sheet supplied by Applelec was used in the creation of a special sign to celebrate the success of one of the greatest special effects films of recent years.**

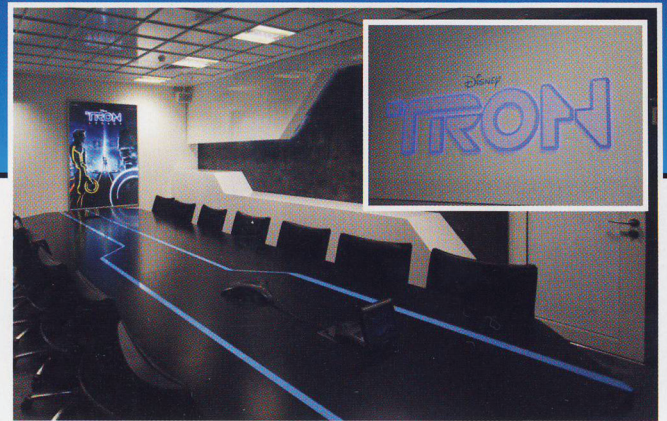
TRON Legacy, the CGI blockbusting science fiction film from Disney, has proved to be a giant success for the studio. To reflect the film's performance, event design and production company, Sculptivate, created a TRON-themed room for the Disney headquarters in London, where meetings, presentations and conference calls are set to take place in a suitably high-tech environment.

A sleek white corridor outside the conference room features the TRON logo in glowing blue lettering, but the sign's

success rests on the creation of an illusion that the word TRON, written in light, emerges out of the stark walls. This was achieved using a deceptively simple process.

To build the sign, a two millimetre-thick folded panel was stencil-cut with the TRON logo and painted white. A sheet of blue acrylic was then positioned above a panel of energy-efficient backlit LED Light Sheet, with both panels then placed behind the stencil-cut sign face. LED Light Sheet has a luminous efficacy (LED) of 80 lumens per watt and provided the light source for the lettering and illumination of the blue acrylic sheet.

The second phase of the sign's construction focused on the development



of the letter detailing and, in particular, the effect of light from the sign appearing to rise out from the wall. To achieve this illusion, the stencil-cut logo was inlaid with clear acrylic letters that protrude eight millimetres from the aluminium face. This simple device creates an impression of depth to the light as it is carried up through the clear acrylic letters that appear to rise out of the sign face. Finally, white vinyl shapes completed the typography element and were mounted into position on each clear acrylic letter.

Applelec Managing Director Ian Drinkwater commented: 'The TRON project uses simple sign making techniques to create a sign with

considerable impact and one that also features its own special effects, without the need for lashings of CGI wizardry.'

With an eight-millimetre profile, LED Light Sheet is used to decrease the overall depth of the sign construction and create a slim illuminated sign consistent with the stylistic principles of the TRON brand. Compared with traditional lighting systems, the insertion of LED Light Sheet gives a significantly streamlined profile. For this particular project, the finished sign was just 30mm thick.

**For further information, visit [www.applelecsign.co.uk](http://www.applelecsign.co.uk)** ■