

Philips LED lighting at the São Sebastião Cathedral in Rio de Janeiro

Background San Sebastian Cathedral

The San Sebastian Cathedral of Rio de Janeiro, is the seat of the arch bishop of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is dedicated to Saint Sebastian, the patron saint of Rio de Janeiro. The current church was built between 1964 and 1979 and replaced a series of old churches that had served as cathedrals since 1676. It is located in the downtown area. Its design was inspired by the pyramids built by the Mayans in Mexico. Its conical shape is meant to pass equidistance and closeness to God. Conical in form and with a 96 meters internal diameter and an overall height of 75 meters, it has a standing-room capacity of 20,000 people. It is the fourth most visited monument in Rio de Janeiro.

Quote from Archbishop Dom Orani

“Today we rescue a story as result of all the work and involvement of City Hall. This light is for all Christians, a beautiful ornament to the city, a sign of its mission to bring *light* to society. It is a gift to Rio de Janeiro, to society and to our story. Thank you.”

Quote from the Secretary of Conservation, Carlos Roberto Osorio

“This project is so important and significant to the city, it brings innovation to the main monuments of downtown Rio. Today, we are inaugurating what is most modern in the world in terms of lighting.”

Quote from one of Rio’s citizens, Cristina Mendes, 47

“The Cathedral is very beautiful; I have never seen anything like it. Our Cathedral deserves the spotlight. I liked it when it gets all red, the color that is reminiscent of our patron Saint Sebastian.”

Facts

- The innovative LED solution was realized with Philips’ Color Reach Powercore
- Specific requirements from Rio de Janeiro’s government and the Catholic Church: the project should be economical and colorful, but also emphasizing the iconic and religious landmark
- Role Philips: supervisor, installation and programming
- The project was realized in October 2010

For further information, please contact:

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