

**SPEIRS  
MAJOR**

Marianne North Gallery,  
Kew, UK

**LIGHT  
ARCHITECTURE**

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The lighting was upgraded to the Grade II listed art gallery to both restore the original character of the building and bring the lighting up to contemporary standards without the equipment impacting on the look of the gallery.

CLIENT  
Royal Botanic  
Gardens Kew

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER  
Atelier Ten

MAIN CONTRACTOR  
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The Marianne North Gallery is a Grade II listed art gallery, built in 1881 within the grounds of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, housing the life's work of botanical artist Marianne North.

With the building in dire need of repair, the lighting was also upgraded to not just address the damage but also to restore the original character of the building, bringing the architectural and gallery lighting up to contemporary standards without the equipment impacting on the look of the gallery.

Unusually, because the gardens close at dusk, the lighting was only to address the look of the gallery during daylight hours. Research carried out in conjunction with Kew's conservator determined that the gallery was originally lit by a combination of daylight and large suspended gasoliers. Indeed, the use of daylight was identified as a key part of the architect's original concept for the building.

Whilst the modern conservation requirements dictated that direct daylight could not be reinstated, the glazing was replaced and linen blinds added to ensure that a sense of daylight was retained. It was also decided to avoid using high contrast lighting as this would be out of keeping with the architectural heritage.

Reproduction pendants were introduced, which both recreate the original look and ambience of the gallery and provide much of the general illumination. The light from the pendants is reinforced by concealed linear fluorescent uplighting of the soffit to emphasise the height of the gallery.

The final key element was the lighting of the paintings themselves. The challenges were threefold: the stringent

