



Elemental Gazette

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Your source for the latest news from Elemental Effects

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Deck the Halls



The end of 2007 kept us busy with holiday projects for Universal Studios Florida.

The first project was the rewiring of the Christmas tree that sits in the New York section of the studio park. We installed 350 four circuit boxes on the inside of the tree that linked the red, blue, green and white LED strings back to the control dimmers and then to the show computer. Each box also had a service cover which kept the weather out of the outlets.



Our next project was building a turntable for Cindy Lou Who's house for the Universal's live production of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*. The challenge on this turntable is that it first had to handle approximately 4000 pounds, second that it had to be portable and third that it had to sit on a flat stage and be no more than 6 inches high. We were able to achieve all of the requirements by hiding the drive motor inside a part of the set, which was built by Artistic Adventures of Orlando.

The largest project during this time was the construction of the Simpson's RV for use in the Macy's Parade at the studios. The project started life as a regular RV; it was then stripped down to the frame and then super sized to fit the Simpson's characters while remaining within the size limitations for the vehicle to be road worthy.

To give you an idea of the scale of the vehicle, the doors on both sides of the RV measure 9 foot high and 4 foot wide. The RV has two generators to run the special effects and parade audio system. The rear windows are removable to allow characters to sit at those positions during parades. Pull out awnings are installed on both sides for when the RV is used as a stationary backdrop for character photo ops. As with the Grinchmas sets, the RV was produced in cooperation with Artistic Adventures.

We look forward to the next challenge presented to us by Universal Studios as well as the other Orlando area attractions.

