

TWISTER

**Client**  
Universal Studios Escape

**Scope of Work**  
Create show set drawings for the attraction's two major scenes. Design, install, and program computerized show control system to monitor and control all show elements including video, audio, special effects and an actual five-story-tall indoor funnel cloud.

- Challenges**
- Design detailed scenic spaces that replicate the effects of a tornado strike.
  - Safely trigger dozens of special effects, video cues, music cues, and sound effects in precise synchronization 10 times every hour.
  - Create a control system capable of generating and maintaining the world's largest indoor funnel cloud.

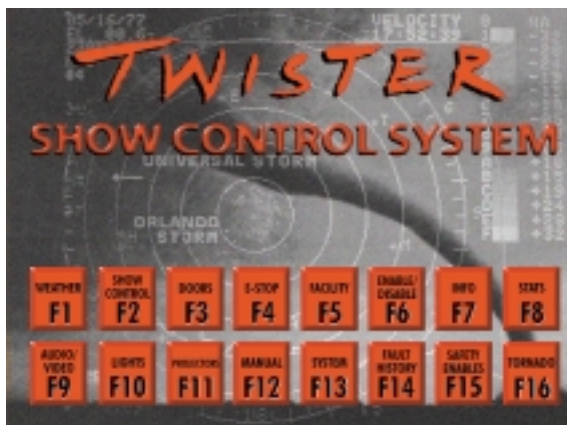
**The ITEC Solution**

Design detailed scenic spaces that replicate the effects of a tornado strike. The ITEC Productions scenic design team referred to client-provided verbal descriptions, concept sketches, and movie stills to create the show set drawings for Twister's two major scenes: a tornado-ravaged home interior and the prairie drive-in where the funnel cloud forms. The latter show set uses two-point forced perspective to compress a drive-in movie complex and the vast Kansas prairie beyond into a 120 ft. x 60 ft. space. ITEC's designers constructed several forced-perspective study models in order to arrange the many set elements and assure that the illusion of great depth would be convincing.



Safely trigger dozens of special effects, video cues, music cues, and sound effects in precise synchronization. ITEC designed and fabricated the Twister show control system in its UL-approved shop and then installed and programmed it at the show site. The system interfaces with 15 special effects subsystems, each of which controls as many as a dozen different effects, video and/or audio cues (often simultaneously).

Create a control system to generate and maintain the world's largest indoor funnel cloud. The attraction's namesake funnel cloud is generated by over two-dozen fans that circulate almost 2 million cubic feet of air per minute. ITEC provided the show's "vortex control system," which uses state-of-the-art variable frequency drives to precisely vary the fan speeds from moment to moment to produce the 12-foot-wide, 50-foot-tall indoor tornado.



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