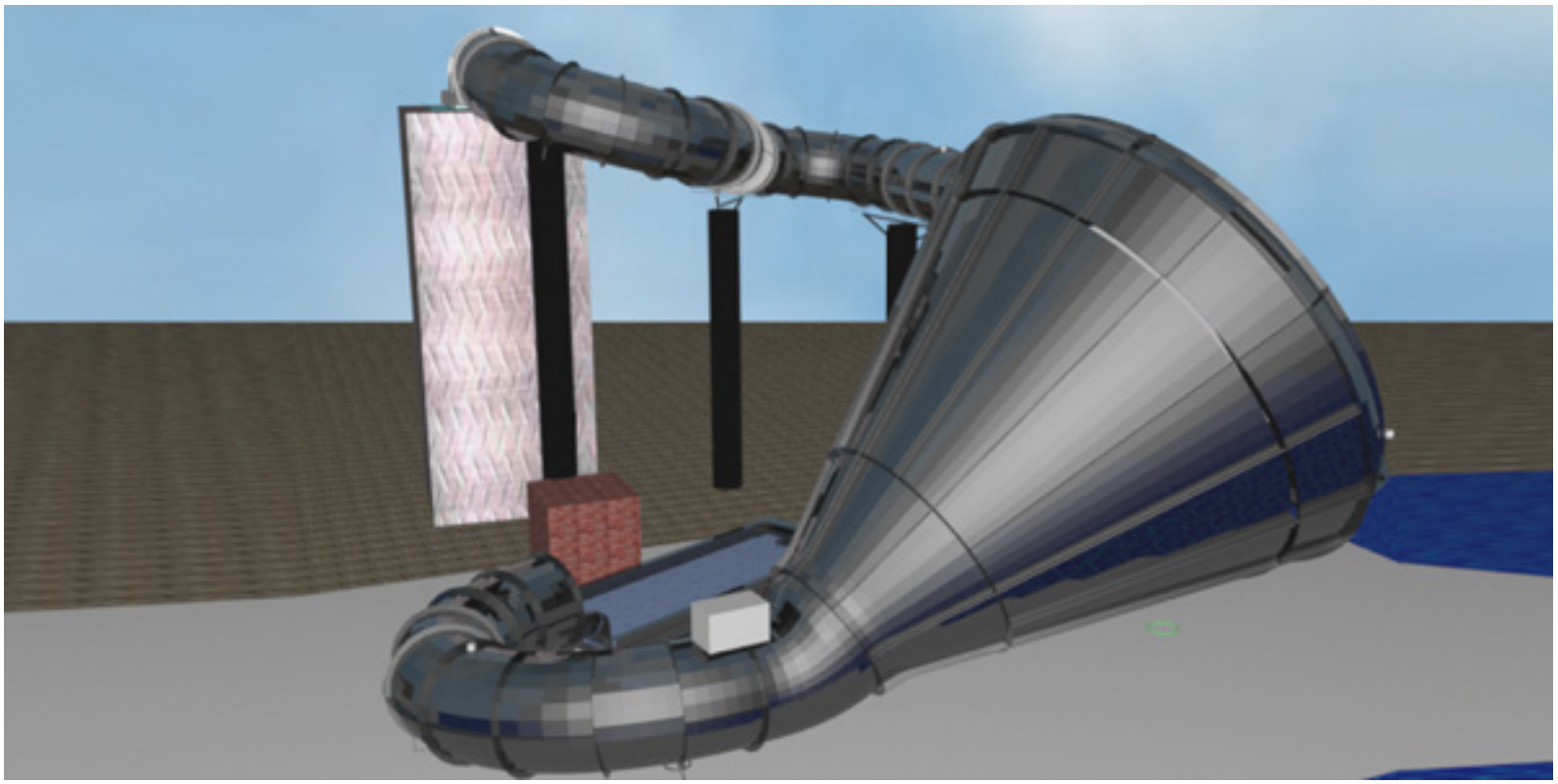
Getting Wet & Wild



WYSIWYG RENDERING OF BRAIN WASH™ RIDE

Imagine sitting in an inflated tube within an enclosed space, listening to music and the sound of water rushing around you. Lights flash softly and the tube moves along in the water. Suddenly you drop 11.5 metres down a vertical tunnel before emerging inside a giant, domed funnel, where you swish from side to side before being spit out into a pool below.

The entire attraction, a sideways take on the bowl slide, is completely enclosed, painted black and white, and is as hypnotic as a water slide can get! Welcome to Brain Wash™, the newest thrill at the Wet n' Wild water park in Orlando, Florida.

Launched in June 07, the ride's dreamlike qualities are thanks in part to the lighting and video previsualization performed by **Techni-Lux** Lighting Designer **Tony Hansen**. To top it off, Tony's even responsible for coining its funky name!

The entire design process lasted about a year and began with Tony taking advantage of *wysiwyg*'s SketchUp and CAD file importing capability, "*wysiwyg* allowed me to import the working CAD files and also the files that the overall designer, Jon Galleta, had been working on in SketchUp," explains Tony. "I was able to take these files and lay over the lighting and video to help illustrate their impact on this unique attraction."

Brain Wash™ is the first dark ride/water ride hybrid, incorporating sound, light, and video projection to give riders a special blend of hypnosis and adrenaline rush. Tony says *wysiwyg* was essential for working out the challenging angles and placements in the ride. "We needed a program that could accurately represent the actual fixtures in this rather demanding and unusual environment, and *wysiwyg* was ideal."

Tony drew on his previous experience designing themed attractions, in particular, the hugely successful,

psychedelic ride, Disco H2O, also at Wet n' Wild. Even with this prior experience, Brain Wash™ presented new lighting challenges for Tony because of its unusual use of LED light. While Disco H2O incorporated LED tubes throughout the inside of the ride, Tony conceived of a first-ever effect for Brain Wash™.

"We wanted to work on the concept of controlling the slide's appearance through the defined use of LED light. In particular, we wanted to use the LEDs as a source rather than the actual visible light," he says. "We worked with the slide manufacturer, ProSlide, to develop the right colour pallet to blend in with the inside of the slide tubes. We found the Pantone match that had the best reaction to the supplied light in each of the three primary spectrums and applied it to the ride's interior."

PHOTO **OF BRAIN WASH™ RIDE**

And the result? "From the outside the ride appears black and white, but it is heavily coloured and themed on the inside—it even has props and video throughout the entire attraction."

Tony and his team spent several months laying out the placements and power of all of the lights in *wysiwyg* and then several more months in a dark office programming the actual effects and sequences, but the work paid off. "This ride actually pushes the envelope for dark rides in general; there is nothing else like it in the world of water slides!" he says.

Tony has used *wysiwyg* for over eight years, starting as the trainer for FullSail in Winter Park, Florida. Now based in Orlando, where he lives with his wife, Lisa (also an avid *wysiwyg* User), and two boys, Tony moved to Florida 13 years ago to work with theme parks. He had a successful run at Universal Studios Florida culminating in a role as the Operations Manager for the development of the SpiderMan attraction at the Islands of Adventure. Tony joined the Florida-based company Techni-Lux four years ago and runs the Design Division there, concentrating on lighting design for Houses of Worship and Themed Attractions.

To see more of Tony's work, visit www.techni-lux.com and click on **Design Services**.