

A Troll in Wonderland

An Italian-Norwegian artist, Ivo Caprino, decided to design one of the symbols of Norwegian culture, a Troll, right in the middle of a popular park.

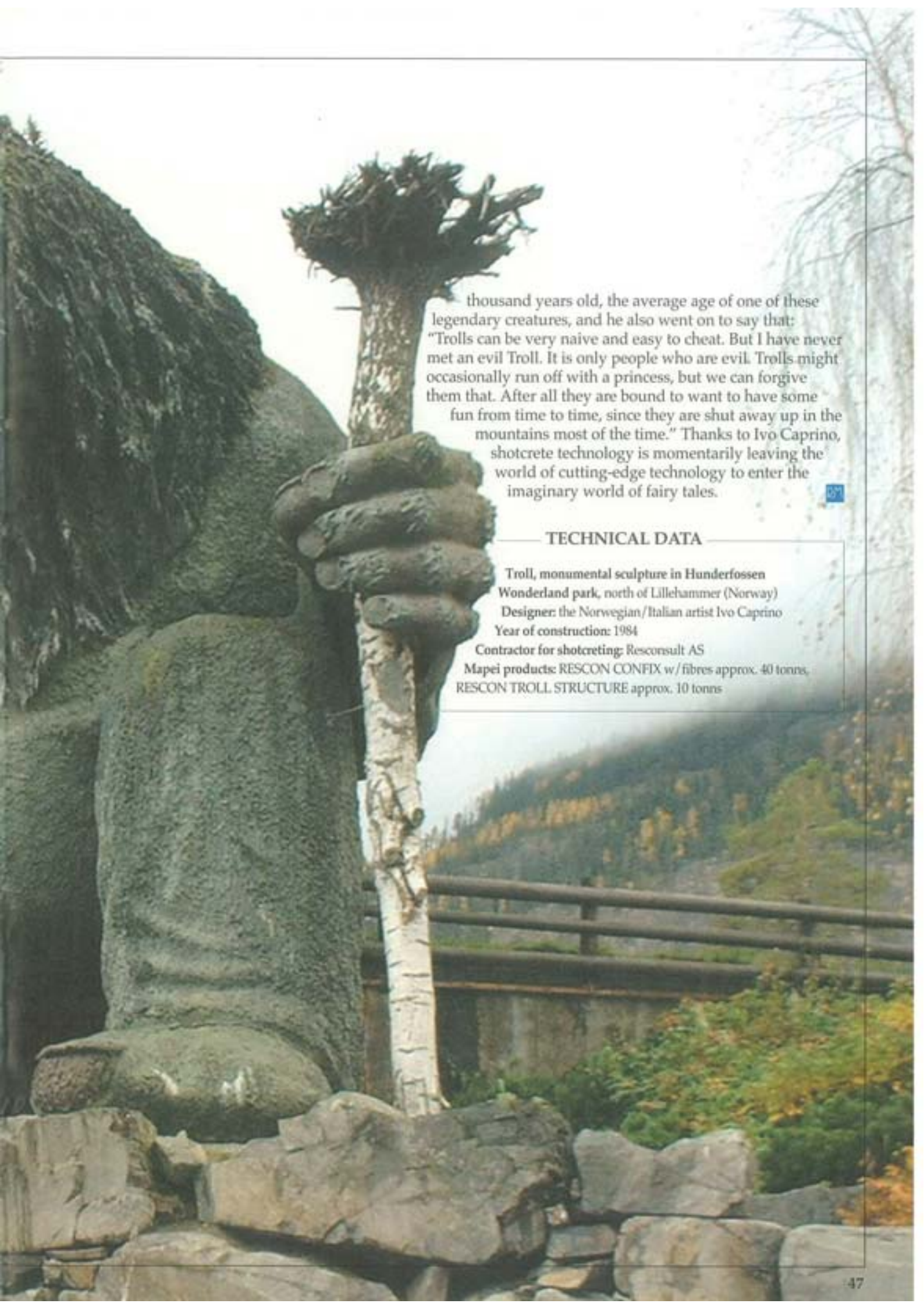
Norway is famous for its magnificent landscapes, fjords, midnight sun and even Trolls, mysterious creatures that live hidden away in the woods and study humans from afar. In the 1980s somebody came up with the idea of devoting an entire park to the north of Lillehammer to Trolls, and so in summer 1985 the Hunderfossen Wonderland, as the park is known, officially opened.

Visitors are greeted by a striking sculpture of a Troll, which is 11 metres tall, 6 metres wide and weighs over 70 tons, placed right at the entrance to a huge cave of about 6 thousand square metres. In actual fact trolls do not only live in woods, but also in caverns and gorges well away from prying eyes, and this huge cave evokes all these exciting Norwegian folk adventures. It is an exciting and intriguing experience to walk between the legs of the huge squatting Troll lost in thought, the same feelings visitors get when they catch sight of the sculpture towering up on the edge of the park. Ivo Caprino first constructed the Troll's skeleton or structure and then sprayed it with Mapei's Rescon CONFIX "enriched" with reinforced plastic and fibre. This mortar is specially designed for repairing, strengthening and maintaining concrete, whose strength, low shrinkage and density are all crucial properties. The mortar has been even further reinforced with 18 mm EE-steel fibres.

The Troll's head and hands were specially cast with glassfibre-reinforced polyester by Caprino's people at his studio in Oslo and then taken to Lillehammer, whereas the body was built on-site. CONFIX with fibre is often used for rock securing in Sweden and Norway, as well as repairing quays and bridges worn away by the salt and bad weather. The outside of the steel reinforced shotcrete (cutting-edge technology in sprayed concrete for the building trade) was sprayed with a special musk-green mortar whose very name evokes its function: TROLL STRUCTURE. A 3-5 cm layer of this easily workable mortar was applied without the addition of accelerators. In the end about 10 tons of the substance was used for the job.

Caprino claims that the Troll might well be almost one





thousand years old, the average age of one of these legendary creatures, and he also went on to say that: "Trolls can be very naive and easy to cheat. But I have never met an evil Troll. It is only people who are evil. Trolls might occasionally run off with a princess, but we can forgive them that. After all they are bound to want to have some fun from time to time, since they are shut away up in the mountains most of the time." Thanks to Ivo Caprino, shotcrete technology is momentarily leaving the world of cutting-edge technology to enter the imaginary world of fairy tales.



TECHNICAL DATA

Troll, monumental sculpture in Hunderfossen
Wonderland park, north of Lillehammer (Norway)
Designer: the Norwegian/Italian artist Ivo Caprino

Year of construction: 1984

Contractor for shotcreting: Resconsult AS

Mapei products: RESCON CONFIX w/ fibres approx. 40 tonnes,
RESCON TROLL STRUCTURE approx. 10 tonnes