

Don't forget ZooLex

The ZooLex Zoo Design Organisation

ZooLex

is your Free Access to International Zoo Design. Designed by the ZooLex Zoo Design Organisation, ZooLex gathers some of the best new zoo designs in the world, explains how they came about in an illustrated format which is uploaded on the ZooLex site. Anytime you access the gallery, you can click and find fascinating accounts of exhibits around the world. You can go directly to the gallery at <http://www.zoolex.org/zoolexcgi/gallery.py> sample some of the other information and opportunities from zoolex on the home pages www.zoolex.org, such as their free magazine, to which you can subscribe, Services, Firms, Research, a Search engine and even some Fun.

Zoo Outreach Organisation has featured Zoo Lex designs as part of the magazine for some time, but not for the last six months or so. Now, since we are web based only, we will catch up with the last six months in this issue and from thenceforward, just notify you what the theme of the last entry is. You should always try and check out these entries. It is interesting to anyone interested in wild animals and zoos. Here is some information about ZooLex

The ZooLex Zoo Design Organization:

The ZooLex Zoo Design Organization is a non-profit organization, registered in Vienna ([ZVR-Zahl 933849053](#)), independent from companies and organizations. It relies on the support of subscribers, members, sponsors and well-wishers to fund its activities. Contact:

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Objectives:

The ZooLex Zoo Design Organization was established to help improve holding conditions for wild animals in captivity by

- publishing and disseminating information related to zoo design,
- promoting appropriate holding conditions for wild animals in captivity,
- providing balanced technical information and advice about zoo design, and
- supporting research and vocational training related to zoo design.

Partnership with WAZA:

ZooLex provides a direct link to the WAZA website from its top navigation bar. The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) makes the ZooLex website available through www.waza.org and holds the ZooLex [archive](#).

WAZA's mission is to guide, encourage and support the zoos, aquariums, and like-minded organisations of the world in animal care and welfare, environmental education and global conservation. The purpose of this partnership is to mutually support each other organization's goal of promoting best practice in animal exhibit design.

Membership:

Please check the website and see the [Terms and Conditions](#) for the use of the ZooLex website.

Founders:

The ZooLex Zoo Design Organization was initiated by Monika Fiby, Hans Fiby and Nadja Ziegler

- You should also sign up for the free monthly [ZooLex Newsletter](#)
- Take a look at the International [Editorial Board](#),
- Archive with [WAZA](#) and investigate the WAZA website while you're at it
- Investigate Vocational training in [ZooLex Workshops](#) which are held at different places in the world.
- [Take a look at the Testimonials](#) and see what others have learned from ZooLex

On the next pages are summaries of the last six months of entries. They are clickable from this page and you can go directly to ZooLex website and see the entry that interest you.

This feature is a free Advertisement for ZooLex because Zoo Outreach Organisation believes in them and knows their ethics and good intentions. ZooLex is archived as a service of WAZA and is sponsored by



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ULTRAQUA
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Zagreb Zoo, Croatia
African Village: Yellow Mongoose



Zagreb Zoo's old elephant building and surroundings were updated and incorporated into a zoo-geographic theme: Africa. The building currently houses ostrich, guinea fowl and eland.

An unused oil tank behind the elephant building was removed and replaced with an area designed in the style of an East African village. Replica African huts with straw-effect coned roofs were erected, along with two animal exhibits: one for meerkat and one for mongoose. The purpose of the area is educational and decorative.

Other small African animals are on display here. Inside one of the huts is a terrarium for Madagascan common tenrecs. There are wall displays of African artefacts, such as masks and statues. Opposite the viewing window for the indoor ostrich area is an exhibit displaying spiny mice. Another hut, adjoining the old elephant building, contains elephant-related information and artefacts, including a life-sized elephant skull.

The exhibit area designated to the yellow mongoose is next to a meerkat enclosure and has capacity for a small group of mongooses. The stick fencing surrounding the glass barrier leaves viewing areas open around both exhibits. The original glass barrier for the mongooses was at the same height as the meerkat barrier (approx. 1m), but had to be extended to 1.40m due to mongooses jumping out of the exhibit. An electric wire was added at a height of 1m.

The indoor mongoose area is one of the African-style huts. It has a concrete floor with sand cover. Visitors can look into the mongoose indoor area.

Weltvogelpark Walsrode, Germany
Owl Castle

Owl Castle was one of the first steps in implementing the masterplan for Weltvogelpark Walsrode. The aviaries aim at combining appropriate keeping of the species with an exciting environment for the visitors. The UHU company - a well-known producer of adhesives in German speaking countries - sponsored the project. "Uhu" is also the German name for the Eurasian eagle-owl.

The theme of the area is the European Middle Ages. The replica of a ruined castle is an appropriate habitat for owls that are commensal species. The visitors to the bird park are sent on a trip into bygone times, where they can explore owls and their habitat. The rambling, medieval



castle - in a traditional half-timbered building, and overgrown with plants - offers the intended atmosphere. The visitors are introduced into the legendary world of native night creatures and their peculiarities.

Minnesota Zoological Garden
Russia's Grizzly Coast: Grizzly Bears



Russia's Grizzly Coast features the region, landscapes, and animals of the Russian Far East: one of the world's last great wildernesses. The \$24 million project replicates the Russian Far East, featuring grizzly bears, sea otters, Amur leopards and wild boars, living on a landscape made up of lush plants, and sprinkled with geysers, lava tubes and mud pots. The project was part of the zoo's long-term plan. The aim of Russia's Grizzly Coast was to create realistic, engaging, and safe animal environments that replicate their wild habitats and stimulate natural behaviors. This enhances animal health and allows opportunities for visitor education. Russia's Grizzly Coast embodies Minnesota Zoo's mission to "Connect People, Animals, and the Natural World" on several levels. The new exhibit and Central Plaza generate momentum for future projects by placing the animals within a spectacular naturalistic setting. The latter demonstrates the connection between the animals and their wild homes.

Russia's Grizzly Coast encompasses three biomes within the Russian Far East, defined as 'Pacific Coast', 'Volcanic North' and 'Forested South'. Visitors are immersed in this dynamic place with "active" geology, plant life, animals and seasonal cycles. The main viewpoint, a window within an eroded lava tube replica, is where visitors gain an 8 meter wide panorama of 'Bear Meadow'. From this window, bears can be viewed both above and below water and may come very close to the visitors behind the glass.

Realm of the Giants Dierenpark Amersfoort Zoo



A new elephant facility was included in the masterplan in 1998. Several concepts have worked on the key challenge of finding cost and space effective solutions.

The construction of the pavilion is based on a cost effective concept consisting of three rectangular units. Two concrete units form the sand room and the stalls. A green house is used as indoor visitor area. Instead of an architectural building, prefabricated construction was chosen and money was rather spent on making the hard lines invisible. A tree trunk facade was created along the outside of the building and along the walls of the herd's stable. Behind the tree trunks, planters are situated that are large enough to contain trees. An Asian themed environment forms the interior of the visitor greenhouse.

Planted, gradually sloping moats form the human-elephant barriers. Along the visitor side, the moats are constructed from 300 cm high concrete elements (L-profiles), The slopes are planted with herbs and grasses on the bottom and hot grass on the top part. Indoor visitors also encounter elephants separated by glass panels of 75 mm thickness.

Yucatan Tropical Hall Zoo Zlín

The Yucatan Tropical Hall represents the abundance and variety of animal species native to the Central American rainforest. This exhibit combines plants and animals. For the first time in the history of Zoo Zlín, ethnographic components were also incorporated. The main objective for the tropical hall is to educate both the general public and school groups. The aim is to help visitors understand the benefits of saving the planet's fragile tropical forests, alongside informing them about ancient Mayan civilization.

The building was erected where of the former Count's riding hall was at the end of the 19th century. In the 1960s, the riding hall was rebuilt into a pavilion of carnivores according to the then fashionable trend of rearing big predators in zoological gardens. The building could be seen in this form as late as 2005



Small exhibits, architectural elements and deliberate use of vegetation make the visitor subconsciously overestimate the space when viewed from the lower floor. There is a lower section with three aquatic exhibits, containing crocodiles, fish, rays and turtles. The hall accommodates decorative elements of Mayan culture, such as steles and hieroglyphically inscribed stones.

Nature Experience Walk: In the Forest Tiergarten Schönbrunn



The main idea of the Nature Experience Walk at Zoo Schönbrunn is to immerse visitors in the native flora and fauna of the local natural environment. The walk is made up of three parts: 'In the Forest', 'At the Water' and 'In the Reeds'.

The Nature Experience Walk is situated on the foothills of the Viennese forest. The forest was modified by forestry and today represents an attractive mix of forest and park with a high biodiversity. 'In the Forest' is a 160 meter long tree canopy walk, where zoo visitors can observe the native wildlife from a high viewpoint, followed by a 170 meter long trail on the ground. The canopy path makes use of the zoo's topography. Starting at the Tirolerhof, the path gains height and leads visitors through the tree canopy in a height of up to 10 meters. Visitors may see birds and their nests located high up in the trees. Some visitors may prefer the alternative path on the ground, where it is possible to see squirrels, bugs and even fox.

On exiting 'In The Forest', visitors pass a meadow with wild butterflies and grasshoppers. Man-made insect homes are on display, as are hedges, piles of branches and stones that serve as habitats for native fauna in an urban environment. A number of terraria displays native reptiles and amphibia.

The path winds down towards 'At the Water'. Here, three large outdoor aquaria direct the attention to native fish. The Nature Experience Walk then continues to 'In the Reeds', where pelicans, cormorants, fire-bellied toads and harvest mice can be seen.

The purpose of the Nature Experience Walk is to interpret the native flora and fauna as being equally as exciting in comparison with exotic animals, such as elephants, lions and fruit bats. Habitats along the Nature Experience Walk are strengthened, enriched and highlighted to visitors. The three thematic parts were realised step by step as budget became available. The tree canopy walk was opened in April 2009, the continuing forest ground walk in April 2010.