



## San Diego Zoo Giraffe Exhibit

Architects Mosher Drew designed a new outdoor exhibit enclosure and related facilities for the new giraffe exhibit at the world famous San Diego Zoo. The Giraffe exhibit is located on the upper east edge of the zoo overlooking a vegetated slope to the east. This 23,000-square-foot exhibit was designed to accommodate gazelles and antelopes as well as the giraffes. Giraffes are very delicate creatures and all areas of the enclosure were carefully designed to assure that the exhibit was free of any obstacles that might create a tripping hazard. The structure is a 53' x 29' wood clad steel frame building consisting of two stalls, a catch pen, and a squeeze alley where the animals are held in position during treatments or vaccinations. These spaces are interconnected with very tall sliding doors which are operated by intricate ropes and pulleys to manage the movement of the animals, protect the keepers and keep the animals safe. In addition, the exhibit includes a special interactive area where Zoo visitors can feed the giraffes.

Did you know that no two giraffes have the same markings?  
Did you know that a giraffe can jump over a truck?

## PROJECT STATS

*Owner: Zoological Society of San Diego*

*Location: San Diego, California*

*Construction Cost: \$850,000*

*Initiation / Completion Dates:  
Design began in 2009  
Construction completed in 2010*

*Key Staff: Larry Hoeksema, AIA  
Ben Meza AIA, LEED AP*



ARCHITECTS  
**MOSHER  
DREW**  
DESIGN + PLANNING