



Panda Exhibit and Research Facility

This 14,000-square-foot facility is designed for the housing, breeding and protection of this endangered species. The project includes a 12,000-square-foot combination office / conference / animal quarters with a separate 700-square-foot nursery building, two exhibits, two holding areas, two hillside exercise yards and a 1200-square-foot interpretive center. The associated exhibit space and viewing structure are integrated into a common garden area.

Tremendous care had to be given to the panda environment because of their endangered status. Resembling a hollow tree or cave in proportion, the den has direct access to the public exhibit. Special snatch doors allow the researchers to retrieve the infant and provide access for the mother to the adjacent Panda Bedroom. The nursery provides support for the team in weighing, caring for and examining the baby as well as the preparation of the special diets for both mother and cub. Special facilities are built in for monitoring panda health status, including scales and "squeeze cages" to restrain the animal while examination and treatment is performed. A circuitous system of cage / tunnels allows the pandas to roam between the exhibit and the bedrooms either guided by keepers or by themselves. Over 40 normal and low light cameras are installed at various locations to continually monitor the animals.

The building materials are simple: block, wood studs and stucco. Because of the significant traffic volumes in the galleries, durable materials were used including glass and stainless steel. To enhance the viewing experience the Panda Garden enclosure is deliberately shallow to bring the bear close to the viewing public. With no separation other than a glass rail and a minimal moat, the viewer has the sensation of entering a garden occupied by pandas.

PROJECT STATS

Owner: Zoological Society of San Diego

Location: San Diego, California

Construction Cost: \$9,000,000

*Initiation / Completion Dates;
Construction completed in 1998*

Size: 14,000 sq. ft.

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ARCHITECTS
**MOSHER
DREW**
DESIGN + PLANNING