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5th Place : Giraffe House, Rotterdam by Lam Architects



The Giraffe House at Rotterdam Zoo sets a sustainable benchmark for animal enclosures. Designed by LAM architects the building was opened in June 2009.

The welfare of the animals and adhering to a 'Cradle to Cradle' design philosophy were principal factors in designing the building. Most of the materials used in construction were recycled, rainwater collected is used to water nearby plants, the building does not use fossil fuels and is entirely naturally ventilated. This holistic approach runs from the design of the building through to the breeding program of the giraffes; the New Zoo has left behind Barnum-style exhibition and spectacle for a 21st-century paradigm of conservation and education.

The architects had to consider that giraffes, uniquely among users of buildings, look down on almost all of their environment - a permanently elevated perspective. They implemented 'cuddle-walls' on which the giraffes can warm themselves and all surfaces within licking range are constructed from non-toxic materials to prevent poisoning from curious tongues.



Top 10 Architecture for Animals

- 1 Noah's Ark, Turkey by Noah
- 2 The Kuroshio Sea, Okinawa by Yukifasa Kokumba
- 3 Snowdon Aviary, London by Lord Snowdon et al
- 4 Americana Dog and Cat Resort - Las Vegas
- 5 Giraffe House, Rotterdam by LAM architects
- 6 The Budongo Trail, Edinburgh by Cooper Cromar
- 7 Penguin House, London by Berthold Lubetkin
- 8 Nekobukuro, Tokyo
- 9 Dictators Birdhouses, Kent by Consarc
- 10 Rotastak Hamster Cages

Source: The Architectural Journal - By Owen Pritchard)