Ndoki Forest, Zurich Zoo

New building

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Initial Situation & Concept

Zurich Zoo has a clear master plan with projects to be realised within the existing grounds by 2050. One of them is the Ndoki Forest. It will give primarily gorillas, but also drills, okapis and pygmy hippos, a species-appropriate home that resembles their natural habitat.

Challenge

The guiding principle is that all facilities reflect the natural habitat. For the Congo, this means spacious areas of around 29,000 square metres, with an interplay of rainforest and clearings. For efficient, needs-based operation, the animals should have several outdoor and indoor enclosures that they can use in rotation. A fixed design plan limits the perimeter and the buildable area. The task is to find the ideal solution between building law and operational requirements. The solution must also meet the demand for particularly good design.

Approach

Together with the landscape architects vetschpartner, who have experience with Zurich Zoo, and the architects L3P, we prepared a feasibility study. Its findings served as the basis for an ideas competition that involved international zoo planning firms. A preliminary review checked all ideas against operational, functional and building law requirements. In a two-stage workshop process, the teams and the jury then discussed and refined the ideas together. In the end, the jury selected one idea unanimously.

(Image rights: Zurich Zoo)

Developer: Zoo Zürich AG
Completion: To be determined
Project type: New building
Construction costs: Not public Mio
Scope of services: Competitions, Cost Planning

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