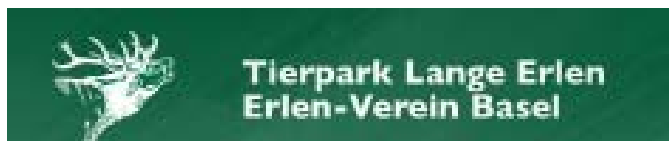


ZooLex

The lynx exhibit at Lange Erlen Animal Park in Switzerland

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Lange Erlen Animal Park

Lynx enclosure

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LOCATION

Tierpark Lange Erlen, Erlenparkweg 110, 4058 Basel, Switzerland

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URL: <http://www.erlen-verein.ch>

KEY WORDS

naturalistic

ANIMALS

Family	Species	Common Name	Capacity
Felidae	<i>Lynx lynx</i>	Eurasian lynx	1.1.2

DESCRIPTION

The lynx exhibit symbolises a fresh start for business at Lange Erlen in two respects. On the one hand, it is the first enclosure opened as part of a masterplan that suggests displays of natural habitats of the region with its inhabitants. On the other hand, it is the first exhibit of a predatory

SIZE

Space allocation in square meters:

use	indoors		outdoors		total exhibit
	accessible	total	accessible	total	
animals	33.1	33.1	2,300	2,600	2,600
visitors			650	750	750
others					
total	33.1	33.1	2,950	3,350	3,350

animal at the zoo. This enclosure has also allowed to introduce fence-free viewing to the animals park. All water features are built as open streams that can be fed from a nearby waterbody. For this purpose, a new water management plant was built alongside the construction of the enclosure. In the future, all waters of the zoo can be controlled through this plant.

The two sections of the enclosure can be connected, so that male and female may be kept together or be separated from one another. A hill divides these two areas.

The many different views into both parts of the exhibit were planned based on the original lay-out of the visitor pathway around the enclosure. This allows visitors to see the various areas of the exhibit. The views are designed in such a way, that the visitor may stand face-to-face with the animal. The back of the enclosure is an artificial rock wall



Lynx family

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View of exhibit 1 across the water pool

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with a waterfall. The water, rocks and plants within the enclosure create the landscape of a hardwood wetland which is part of the natural lynx habitat. In 2008, the lynx exhibit became the second stage in the implementation of the masterplan of Lange Erlen, following completion of the Farmyard. The lynx enclosure occupies about 2'633 m² and is situated on land formerly used by donkeys and pigs.

COSTS

CHF 750,000 including 10% for design.

OPENING DATE

14 September 2008

DESIGN

Beginning: September 2007

- All stages: pg landschaften, Gerbegässlein 1, 4450 Sissach, Switzerland
- Engineering services: Berchtold + Tosoni AG, Gewerbestrasse 10, 4450 Sissach, Switzerland

CONSTRUCTION

Beginning: March 2008

- Artificial rock construction: Huber Straub AG, Henric Petristrasse 12, 4010 Basel, Switzerland
- Underground construction: ARGE Mazzotti / Wirz, Luigi Mazzotti AG Horburgstrasse 80, 4057 Basel, Switzerland
- Fence construction: Kumli u. Partner GmbH, Pumpwerkstrasse 20, 4142 Münchenstein, Switzerland
- Netting: Jakob AG, Drahtseilfabrik, 3555 Trubschachen, Switzerland



Keepers' feeding area
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PLANTS

As the zoo is situated in a region of hardwood wetland, plant species of this biotope were used in the exhibit. The species will be allowed natural succession.

FEATURES DEDICATED TO ANIMALS

The topography of the landscape (elevated ridges, walls) provides the animals with various areas of stimulation and retreat. There are gravel-beds with short pioneer plant species, lush meadows on the hillsides, running streams, water pools and trees, as well as rotting wood. Artificial rocks throughout the landscape can be climbed by the animals.

FEATURES DEDICATED TO KEEPERS

Zoo keepers oversaw the planning and construction of the exhibit. Their experience and opinions were also taken into consideration when it came to equipping the interior of the exhibit. Suitable niches in the vegetation and topography are used by the keepers to hide food and snacks for the enrichment of the animals.

FEATURES DEDICATED TO VISITORS

The visitor is separated from the fence of the enclosure by a narrow bed of vegetation: this prevents their access not only to the animals behind the fence, but also to the electric wire. Views into the enclosure are mainly across a pond that separates visitors from animals. The lay-out of the viewing station allows groups of visitors to observe the animals.



Artificial rocks
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Information board
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The fencing of the exhibit is thin, black steel netting that is highly transparent. This effect is accentuated by a distance of 6 metres between the poles. All fences, as well as trees near the fences, are electrified for safety.

INTERPRETATION

The visitor may learn about the lynx on information boards. Steps are being taken to set up video broadcasts from a television screen in the future.

MANAGEMENT

The two exhibits are connected by two electrically-powered sliding doors. Two cages are situated between the building and the exhibits. These exhibits are usually managed as one, but the animals can be kept separately when necessary. When the animals are in the cages, keepers can bring food into the exhibit.

A creek that is fed with water from a nearby pond runs through the two exhibits. At the water viewing points the creek widens to basins. Because of the permanent water flow and the mild winters in Basel the basins seldom freeze. During short frost periods, the basins can be kept ice free manually. When the frost continues, the animals must be kept in the cages. However, there are hardly visitors during such cold days.

RESEARCH

A project with the University of Basel is planned.

CONSERVATION

The zoo is situated in an area where both forest and groundwater are protected. This has been taken into consideration during construction, as

well as for maintenance of the enclosure.

LOCAL RESOURCES

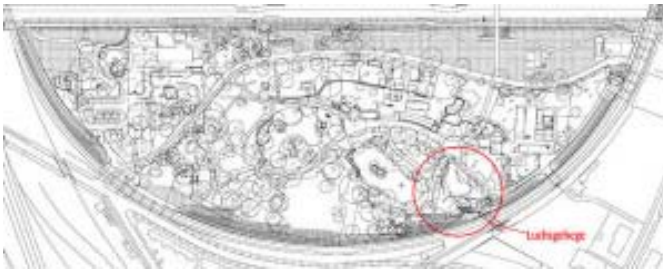
Local people and resources are considered, with regards to both employment and in the sourcing of food for the animals. The plants used in the enclosure were locally bought.



Birthing den
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Safety measure: electric grass
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Overview: ©pg landschaften, 2009



View of exhibit 1(2). ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



Site plan: model of the enclosure with building (Luchsgebäude), waterfall (Wasserfall), visitor view points 1 to exhibit 1, visitor view points 2 and 3 to exhibit 2. ©pg landschaften, Fabio Haeuselmann, 2007



View of exhibit 2 (8) ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



Picture Views: ©pg landschaften, 2007



Back entrance into enclosure. ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



View of exhibit 1(3) ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



View of exhibit 2 (5) ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



View of exhibit 2 (4) ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



Safety measure: electric wire. ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



View of exhibit 2 (5) ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



Dimensions of view across the pool (7) ©pg landschaften, 2007



Gate which allows division of the enclosure into two separate areas ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



Back entrance into enclosure. ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009

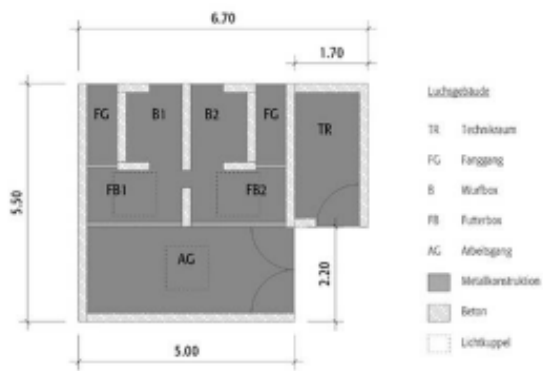


Diagram showing sections of the indoor area of the enclosure, including holding areas with feeding space (FB), dens (B) and catch area (FG), technical room (TR) and a corridor for the keepers (AG). ©pg landschaften, 2007



Transporting crate. ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009



Keepers' area. ©pg landschaften, Katharina Köbele, 2009