

# Wings over trunks- Reuse of an elephant enclosure as a walk- through aviary

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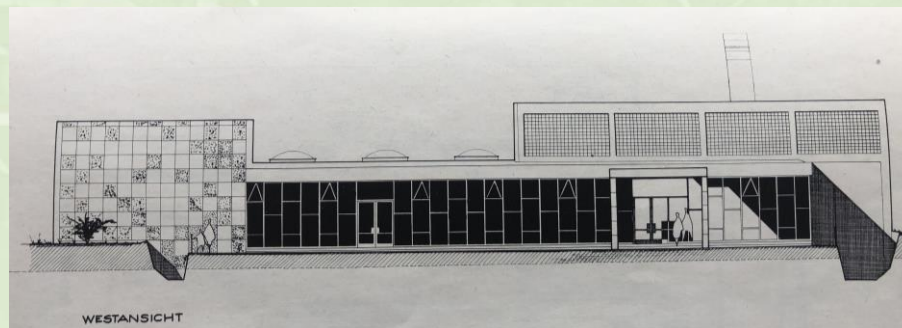
ZOOLOGISCHER GARTEN  
MAGDEBURG



# What we had:



- A pachyderm house opened 1967, 1st new one in GDR
- Planned bei Heinz Graffunder (important zoo architect of GDR)
- Significant historical step for our park on its development from a park for native animals to a proper zoo with exotic species
- In high times 5 adult elephants, 1,1 hippos and 4 Black rhinos (->1st GDR breeding here in 1979, followed by 4 more in this house)
- From 2010- 2017 new houses for rhinos and elephants were built
- Task: to incooperate the old building in the landscape park we are creating since 2009 with other animal species- or tear it down (estimated costs: 300.000 €)?

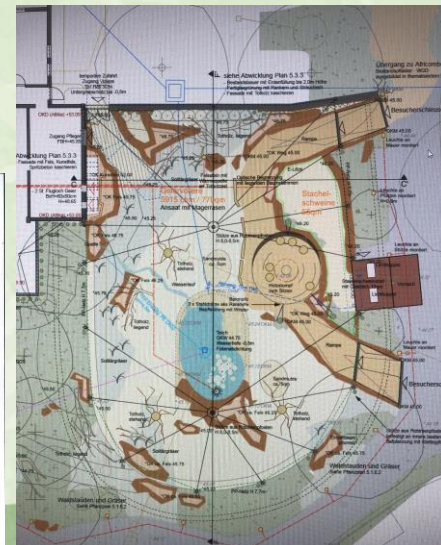




# What we wanted:



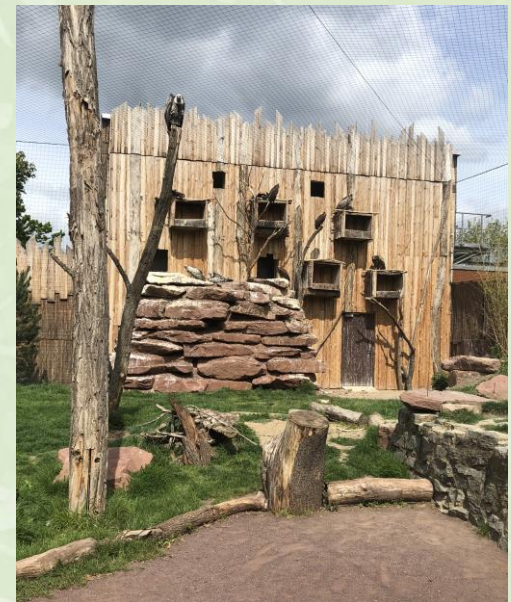
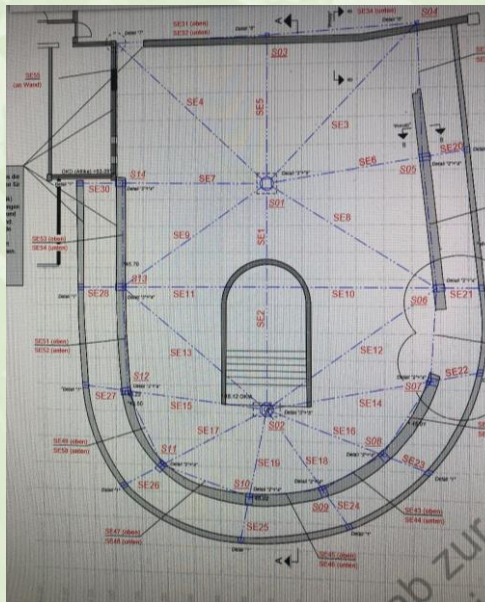
- A big aviary for different African vultures
- A walk through- Aviary
- Mixing with a small african carnivore
- An enclosure for South african Porcupines integrated+ a seperate indoor accomodation, visible for the visitors
- Indoor cages for the vultures for breeding and wintering
- Use of as many natural materials as possible
- Use of as many existing structures as possible
- Interpret some typical features generations of local zoo visitors are familiar with in a new sense
- Blended in the landscape and vegetation
- At lowest possible costs!





# What we got:

- A 765 sqm aviary,
- 8 m high in the middle, 7 m high on the edge
- Visible poles from Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) tree trunks
- Nylon netting (10 x10 cm) on the top and on the sides ( up to 1,50 m from the ground additional metal mesh is used to protect the nylon being gnarred by the vultures, and also to keep Yellow mongoose in, therefore metal mesh ends with a electric wire on top)
- A house for the porcupines with 1 showroom (15 sqm) and one cage behind the scenes
- Building time: April- July 2017
- Building costs: 130.000 €



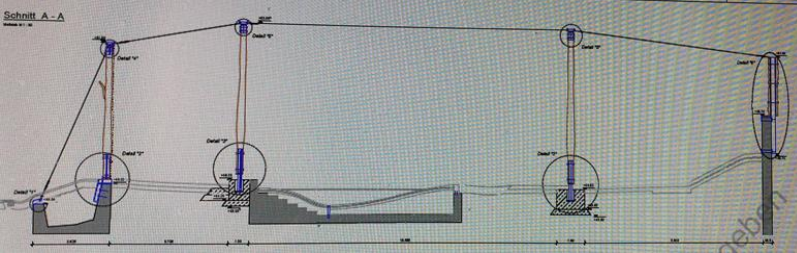


# What we used from the past:



- Inner wall of former dry moat was used as foundation for poles and also secures the enclosure from escapes by animals able to dig out
- Moat was filled+ densely planted
- Southern gable wall was covered with sand stone rocks and wooden planks, nesting sites were added
- Former elephant stables and heating kettle rooms are now inside cages for birds ( 2x 10 sqm at 1<sup>st</sup> level, 2x 15 sqm at 2<sup>nd</sup> level)
- Former elephant pool was partly filled in, is now used as shallow bathing pool for the vultures (and geese)
- Former small granite wall was used to create a platform behind for porcupines
- Old concrete shadow tree is now a place for visitors to

sit under and vultures to sunbath on





# What we experienced so far:



- A great success with our visitors
- Because of some very curious vultures 1 guard has to be present when open for the public (limits opening times)
- 2,5 Rüppell's vultures ( different ages), 2,2 Hooded vultures, 0,1 Palmnut vultures have settled in very well, flying a lot
- Already 2 eggs with Hooded vultures ( no successful incubation yet), copulations, nest building in adult Rüppell's vultures-> some pairs have chosen each other in both species; 2 x successful rearing in South African porcupines
- Mixing with Yellow mongooses worked very well, also popular with visitors- no escapes, but with a pair of young secretary birds fights- Yellow mongooses temporarily dismissed
- Planted bushes in the aviary have to be protected with wire mesh from the vultures
- Plant supporting nets can be a trap for vultures even if with big gaps- have to be dismissed
- Outer electric wire had to be installed against foxes which want to participate in vulture's food- would otherwise at least damage the nylon mesh

