



A NEW CAT HOUSE IN ALBUQUERQUE

the feline exhibit at the Rio Grande Zoological Park

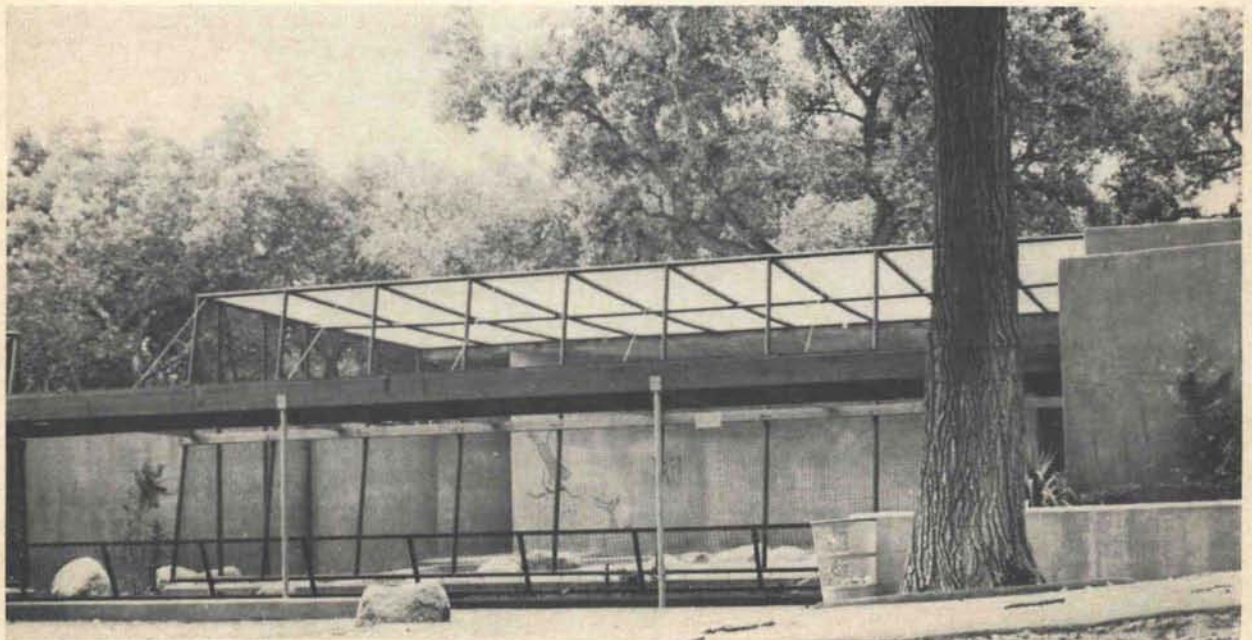
Pacheco and Graham, Architects

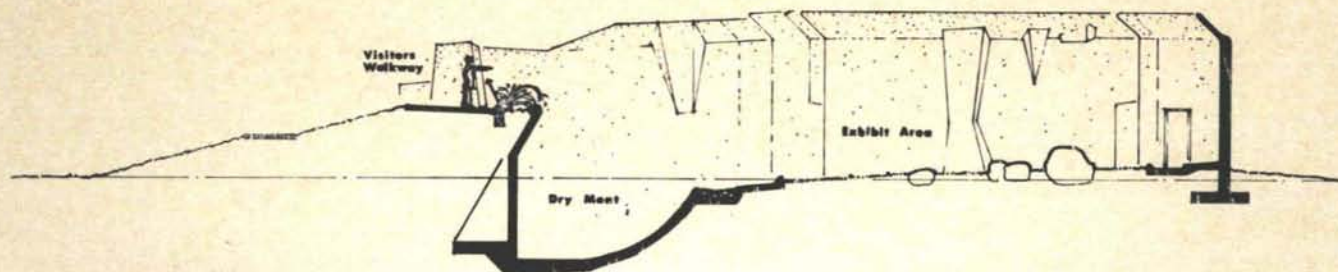




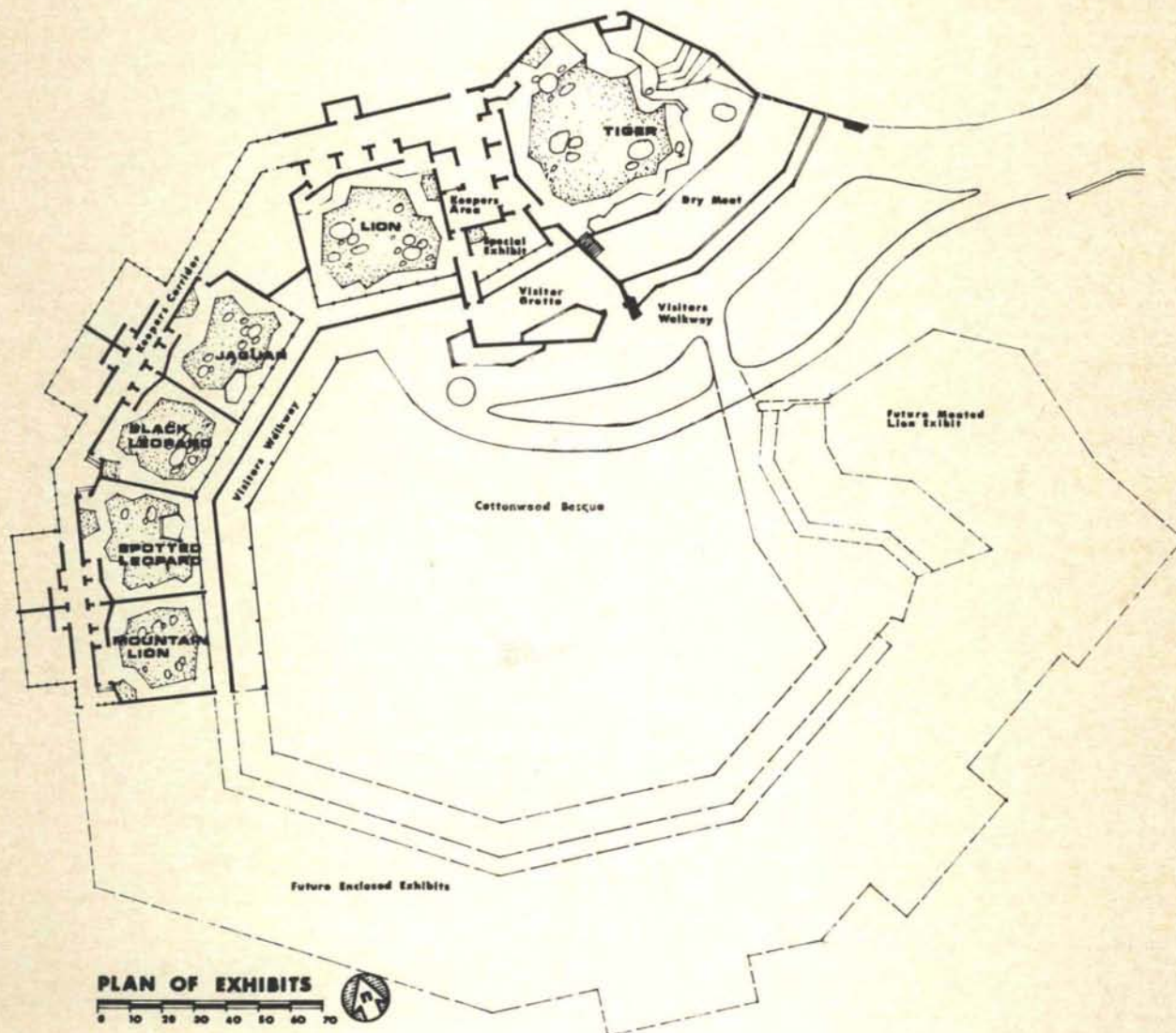
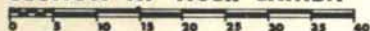
An attempt has been made in this complex to equate man with nature. These animals are a part of man's environment and background, even though they now seem quite remote. To convey this feeling, primitive drawings from the areas indigenous to the animals were selected and placed upon the walls of the exhibits. For the leopards and African lion, the drawings reflect bushman paintings of Central Africa. The jaguar exhibit has pictorial forms as drawn by the people of the Aztec culture. The drawings and petroglyphs in the mountain lion exhibit were taken from the local countryside. (See sketches bottom page 9, and photo this page).

The program called for the display and handling of the major feline species including tiger, African lion, jaguar, black and spotted leopards and the North American mountain lion. First considerations were given to open-moated exhibits for all species but plans were later modified to include only the tiger in a moated exhibit. This decision was made because of the high cost of construction for moated areas. The tiger was chosen for the open exhibit because of his natural affinity for water and his visual size when viewed from the distance of the moat.





SECTION AT TIGER EXHIBIT



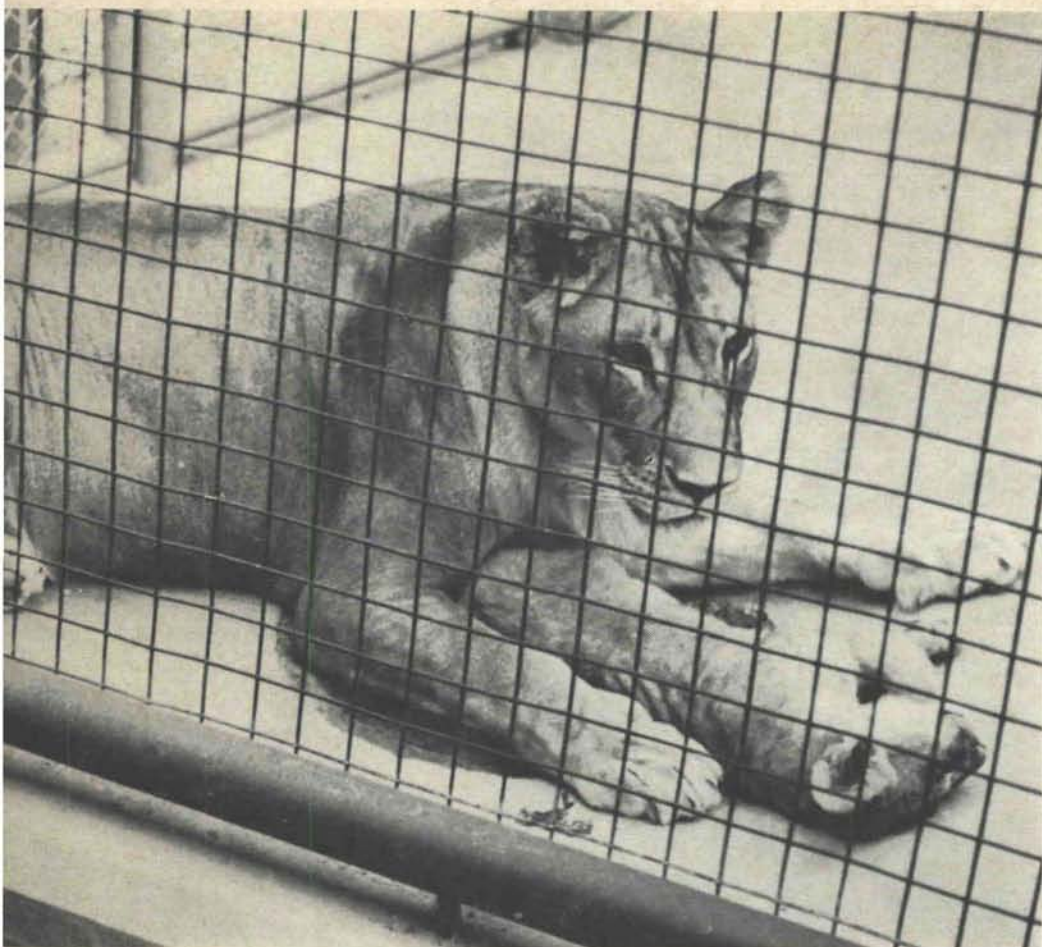
PLAN OF EXHIBITS

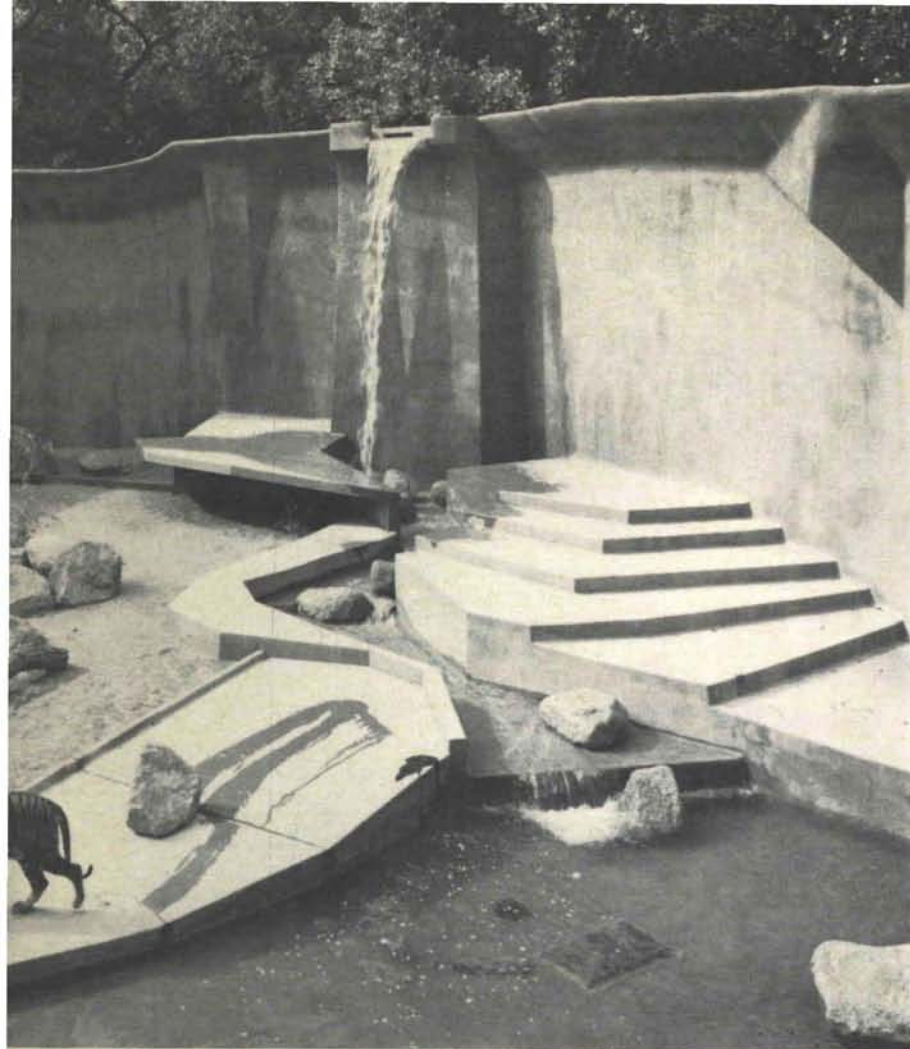


The visitor views this exhibit across an 18-foot dry moat that exceeds the tiger's jumping ability. The surrounding wall is also 18 feet high with a 3-foot overhang to foil any attempted escape. A waterfall, located on the wall, recirculates water at a rate of six gallons per second with the overflow forming a water trough at the edge of the dry moat. The tigers will frequently play and relax in the water areas. Further protection of the visitors from

the animal area is provided by a sloping guard rail and intensive thorn-type landscaping.

The back wall of the exhibit will later form a backdrop for a rhinoceros exhibit and provision has been made for future eye-level viewing of the exhibit through glassed areas. The intent of the designer in the tiger exhibit and throughout the complex was to suggest the natural setting without attempting to duplicate nature.





Dick Kent—Photographer



The Visitor's Grotto and Special Exhibit Area is a small enclosed space designed to display animals on a temporary basis. The area can be closed for isolation and maternity purposes. The remaining five exhibits are enclosed with welded pipe and 2 x 2 steel mesh. Granite boulders, taken from nearby mountains, were used in each of the exhibits.

The keeper's area and sleeping pens located to the rear of the exhibits are designed to provide an efficient method of feeding and taking care of the animals while protecting the keeper. The basic module of the service area was formed by the use of a transfer cage which serves as a runway between exhibits and can also be used for holding the animals during the veterinarian's examination. Each of the exhibits is backed up with an outdoor holding pen that will be used to house spare or sick animals, as required.

In the design and layout of a complex of this nature, the architect is faced with a unique client as he must design for the activities and life patterns of the animals themselves. The ordinary construction concepts and design limitations must give way to disciplines that are quite unique to the field of zoo design. — C. G.

ARCHITECT:

Pacheco and Graham, Architects
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Channell Graham, AIA, Partner in charge of project.

OWNER:

City of Albuquerque
Mr. Peter V. Domenici, Chairman
City Commission
Mr. Robert L. Burgan, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

CONTRACTOR:

Bradbury and Stamm
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Albuquerque, New Mexico

CONSULTANTS:

Charles Faust, Designer San Diego Zoo, Consultant
Howard Cottrell,
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Claude Lyon, Mechanical Engineer
Donald Fowler, Electrical Engineer
Dr. Frank Hibben, Chairman
Zoo Advisory Board

Photographs—Pacheco and Graham

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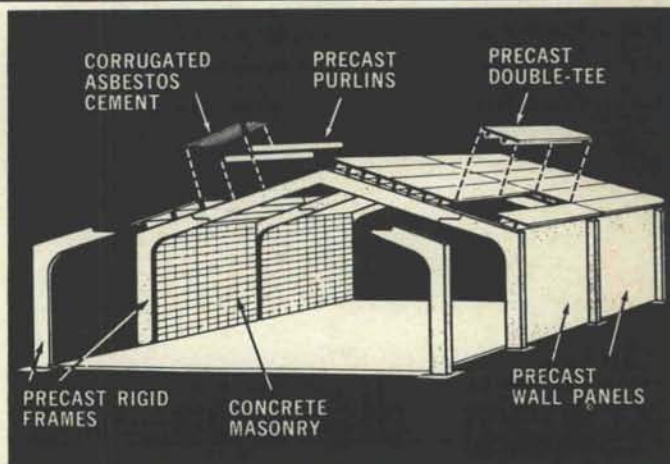
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