

Case Study

AN **idom** GROUP COMPANY

Project

Blackpool Apehouse Regeneration

Date

November 2012-2014

Client

Parques Reunidos

Budget

£600k

Contractor

Reids

Architect

N/A

Planning & Feasibility

Idom Merebrook

Structural & Building Services

Idom Merebrook

CDMC

Idom Merebrook

Overview

The main purpose of the project was to create a larger pen and public viewing area at Blackpool Zoo's Apehouse – this being the first phase of a proposed two stage major upgrade. The client's requirements included the design of a steel frame structure to be used as an Ape enclosure (Ape House) with a timber access ramp to the first floor to give a natural look. The client required a significant amount of light to the ape enclosures and pens, allowing the animals to feel that they were in their natural habitat whilst at the same time providing separation from the general public.

Access for the zoo keepers is provided via heavy duty steel doors, to the pens and cross over ducts, to enable the transfer of the apes from the pens to the outside areas for maintenance purposes and for the animals' recreation. The pens were constructed with a protective mesh between ground level and the roof to avoid any damage by the animals to the glazing units installed across the roof area. This mesh has to withstand the weight of the apes hanging from it and also the weight of the zoo keeper who will access the space between the mesh and the roof via a platform on the roof. Whilst accessing the space the keepers are attached to a fall arrest system fixed to the roof deck.

The mechanical design included temperature controlled external vents, heating and ventilation systems and hot and cold water services for the ground and first floors. The doors, slides and tunnels also have a mechanical design that provides maximum safe operation for the zoo keepers during pen maintenance. These were designed to incorporate mechanisms similar to ones integrated into a successful system used at Chester Zoo. The electrical design scope included electrical site services, lightning protection, containment and distribution, power supply layout, internal and external lighting, fire alarm systems and plan, and roof services.

Below: New Main Access



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