



Symbol tree provides information and fun

An information center debuted within the new corridor at the National Park Veluwezoom Visitors Center, located in the eastern part of the Netherlands. The main objective was to make the Dutch nature preserve accessible to all visitors and to provide information as to navigating the 12,500-acre park.

The newly built glass-clad corridor ties the old and new buildings and is the focal point for all public functions, namely: offices, conference and multimedia rooms, restaurant, bicycle rental, and information center.

The monumental structure also contains a permanent exhibition, a shop, and a children's playground, and the exhibition caters to an audience of all age levels.

The design began with the idea to build one symbolic structure that strengthens the architectural space of the corridor. Thus, the abstract tree becomes a natural symbol that weaves through the corridor and ties together the disparate services. The surface of the tree is comprised of ten different indigenous wood collected from the surrounding park, and the tree carries information about the local topography and wildlife. This information is presented through film, cartoons, and interactive features that are interesting for all ages. A pot hole in the tree allows children to play and have fun like "wild pigs." (Yasuhiko Taguchi)

Article by Yasuhiko Taguchi, Photo by Thijs Wolzak

DATA

VELUWEZOOM VISITORS CENTRE

(フェルエズーム・ビジターセンター)

Design firm: Kossmann.dejong

Location (所在地): Heuvenseweg 5a, 6991 JE Rheden

Total area (床面積): 250 m²

Completion (竣工): Jan. 2007

Client (クライアント): Dutch Foundation for Nature Conservation

Contractor (施工): Exhibition contractor, Bruns

Main materials (主な材料):

All kinds of wood, directly from the area: Oak, Birch, Beech, Larch, Douglas, Grove Pine, Robinia
 近隣産の多種木材—オーク、カバ、ブナ、カラマツ、米松、グローブパイン、ロビニア