



#### 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 m<sup>2</sup>  
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  
近隣産の多種木材ーオーク、カバ、ブナ、カラマツ、米松、グローブパイン、ロビニア