

Natural Encounters



Houston Zoo, Houston, TX

Tree branches stretch out over the pathways. Sliding glass panels silently part, offering an intimate connection to a rainforest habitat. A field researcher emerges from a tent to share intriguing stories of the natural world. A new and exciting era in zoo exhibit design began when the Houston Zoo opened the doors of the new Ethel G. and Allen H. Carruth Natural Encounters Building.

A first of its kind concept in zoo exhibitry, Natural Encounters will bring Zoo guests nose to nose with Asian small clawed otters in deep-diving pools, a spectacular coral tank, piranhas, turtles, meerkats, tamarins, and fruit bats. "Natural Encounters has been a real-life adventure from start to finish," said Zoo Director Rick Barongi. "From conception to design and construction, Natural Encounters is a state of the art design that will educate, amaze, and inspire visitors of all ages."

With hundreds of animals and an exceptional staff, the Ethel G. and Allen H. Carruth Natural Encounters Building sets a new standard for interactive zoo exhibitry. Natural Encounters' combination of creative keepers and intriguing animals vividly demonstrate the importance of protecting and understanding our natural world.

Natural Encounters
Houston Zoo
Houston, Texas
2002-2005
\$ 5 Million

