

Zoo Architecture

The Building Typology of Large-scale Constructions in Zoological Gardens

In this work, zoo architecture is mapped out in a systematic manner which has not been in evidence until now. On this basis, the development of this building category is firstly examined by addressing theoretical, historical and typological aspects. It may be noted that large-scale constructions in zoological gardens can be seen as an autonomous building typology which, in common with any other category, follows the societal trends and scientific findings of the respective epoch. A selection of thirty historic buildings from the past 200 years helps to raise the profile of this architectural category. In addition, this research defines ten design parameters which may serve as a reference guide for the planning of zoo centres. The categories defined specifically within the framework of this research are set out in the concluding -analysis of each of ten contemporary large-scale constructions for elephants, primates and large cats. The results show that the methodology of the theoretical approach, historical architectural chronology and identification of building typologies followed by the elaboration of strategic planning recommendations is well-founded.

Two main chapters set forth the basic principles and provide examples from real life. The first chapter draws a distinction between architectural theory, architectural history and building typology to discuss zoo architecture with respect to these three sub-disciplines. The second main chapter of this work is more extensive, presenting thirty idiosyncratic historic zoo buildings. The main part of this chapter is devoted to a detailed analysis of thirty international zoo buildings over the past twenty years. Floor plans, elevations, sections and project data provide insights in a depth of content hitherto not achieved. The explanations of the project by the respective architect are critically evaluated and buildings sorted into categories based on building typology (prisons, theatres, museums) and visual effect (natural, event-related, symbolic).