



Vertical Zoo

How Verticality can Change the Zoo Experience

Shaun Yong



Vertical Architecture

Architecture has and always will be aimed at creating a design that favours its users. Each living being should have access to spaces which suit their nature and temperament. By focusing on vertical architectural elements, this project hopes to unveil the true nature of pandas – not the fat and lazy bears we have grown accustomed to, but rather playful and adaptable treeclimbers. To release all pandas back into the wild is and should always be an overarching goal. Hence, this enclosure serves to prepare pandas for the wilderness by honing their natural instincts and survival skills.

Form Derived from Nature

No amount of enclosed space is large enough for any enclosed living being besides the open world itself. For this project, however, the scale of architecture encapsulates nature dwarfing all living beings. Designed on top of a mountain in China, the concept behind the form is derived from nature itself: bamboo enwrapped by the mountain. The circulation route enables visitors to explore the entire scale of the architecture.

Side-by-side Circulation

The goal of this design is to create an enclosure for pandas to explore and to provide people with a better understanding of pandas. Each circulation route in the building brings people closer to this animal, rather than aspiring to be merely a touch-and-go event. As we venture through the building, we learn more about their nature, home, and surroundings, experiencing verticality alongside the pandas. Ultimately, it is important to bring together humankind and pandas since we, as humans, need to understand why these animals must be conserved and protected.



Design Idea

The purpose of this enclosure is to not only serve as an education medium revolving the ecosystem of the giant pandas but to also prepare the Pandas for the outside world. By planting different species of bamboos on the different levels of the enclosure, this would train them to seek for their own food while training their survival skills.

Flora and Fauna of the Zoo

- 1 Tibetan Snowcock Bird
- 2 Tibetan Sandgrouse
- 3 Giant Babax
- 4 Tibetan Eared Pheasant
- 5 Chimonobambusa Quadrangularis (Square Bamboo)
- 6 Giant Panda
- 7 Bambusa Sinospinosa (Thorny Bamboo)
- 8 Dendrocalamus Latiflorus (Mei-Nung Bamboo)







