



BugWorld



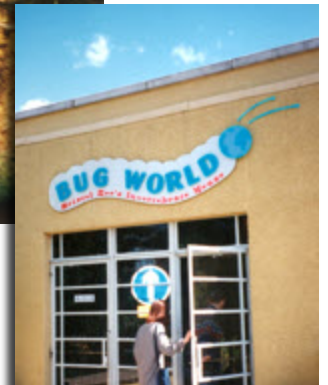
Client: Bristol Zoo

- An Exhibition Plus project
- Contract, value £110K
- Design and Build Contract

Completely refurbishing Bristol Zoo's Insect House, we divided the habitats into Desert, Tropical, Oceans, Forests and the City. A new introductory A/V included projecting millions of insects onto the visitor and concluded with a visitor exploratory area.



Interpretation was designed to be changed easily to observe current animal activity.



Sea arthropods



Live beehive

The locust run





Locust enclosure with visitors able to get into the middle of it.



BRISTOL ZOO 9/10

(Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3HA, tel: 0117 973 8951. Winter: Open daily 9 am to 4.30 pm. Admission: £4.50, children £2.50, senior citizens £3.60.)

ONE OF Britain's best-known zoos, thanks to TV appearances in the Sixties and Seventies on Johnny Morris's Animal Magic programme, Bristol is a traditional zoo with a lot of animals in a relatively small space. Our least favourite.

WHAT TO SEE: More than 300 species, ranging from dung beetles to elephants. New attractions include Bug World — a new 'interactive' invertebrate house — and Twilight World, a small nocturnal mammal house. Allow two hours to see everything.

ANIMAL COMFORT: A Sumatran tiger was circling its small space behind grim wire netting in a disturbed, nervous fashion. Zoos like Bristol may offer the best hope of ensuring the survival of the tiger as its natural habitat vanishes, but seeing this one penned up, we wondered if life in a zoo is a more desirable alternative. We felt equally uneasy about some of the other animals' very modest quarters — particularly the penguins.

VISITOR FACILITIES: A new canteen has been opened — cup of tea 60p, cheese and pickle sandwich £1.10 — and new attractions like Bug World are thoughtfully conceived and intelligently executed.

CONSERVATION: The zoo's literature shows appropriate concern for endangered species and argues the case for captive breeding programmes. But not much effort is made to describe animals on display.

OUR VERDICT: 'Very depressing,' reckoned my daughter. 'If I were an animal here, I think I would go mad.' Since Bug World was so well done, we all thought they should get rid of big animals and concentrate on very little ones.

SCORE: Four out of 10.



Black Widow spider house



Introduction



Sea arthropods