

Knies Kinderzoo: wood structure in elephant park

Rapperswil, CH



Project details

Client	Gebrüder Knie, Schweizer National- Circus AG
Architecture	Müller & Truniger dipl. Architekten ETH SIA
Project type	Leisure and sport, Hotels and restaurants, Art and culture
Construction type	Wood element construction
Services	Timber construction
Construction	2014
Locality	Rapperswil
Country	Switzerland

New fairytale elephant enclosure and restaurant in timber for children's zoo

The Himmapan, a fairy tale forest from Thai mythology, inspired Franco Knie to create the new elephant park at his eponymous children's zoo in Rapperswil. A spectacular elevated path gives guests the chance to experience the elephants up close. A Thai restaurant on a rocky landscape is another new addition. The general planner was Ghisleni Planen Bauen GmbH. We had the honour of planning and realising the restaurant and lounge area as the starting point for the tours of discovery, along with the elevated path, stairs, flooring and railings.

One interesting detail of the elephant path is that the curves are constructed as clothoids, i.e. curves with a special spiral shape commonly seen in road and railway construction. For the elevated path, we produced sections as a trough bridge with spans as long as 14 metres. Much of the work was individually produced in detail on site.

Specific Contact



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Bridge at the Children's Zoo in Rapperswil



New Himmapan Lodge