



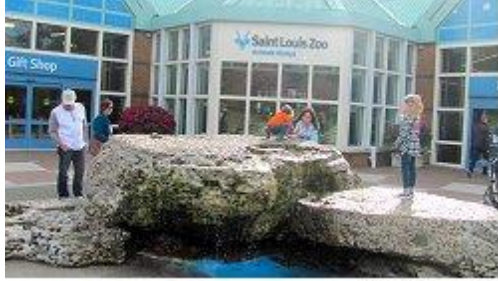
THE  
ART & ARCHITECTURE  
OF THE  
SAINT LOUIS ZOO



Compiled by John Tomlinson - Volunteer  
Edited by Jill Gordon - Saint Louis Zoo Librarian  
Updated January 2020



## 1: Untitled (Limestone boulders) - Art



### Outside Living World/(North Entrance)

4'H, 8'W, 6'D / 1989

This sculpture by Robert Cassilly, Jr. is a large grouping of natural limestone boulders with life-size casts of bronze animals and insects mounted on the surfaces and crevices of the rocks. A large central boulder is flanked by two smaller rocks. Animals on the piece include: on the small rock: two turtles, two mice, and a snake; on the large

boulder: a bullfrog, a butterfly, a frog, and a lizard; on top of the large boulder: two turtles, one eating a snake, a lizard, a salamander, two frogs, and five beetles; on the second small rock: a turtle, a crawfish, two salamanders, and a frog; underneath the overhang of the boulder: two muskrats and one frog. A small pool was once situated in front of the sculpture but was removed during the renovation of the new Welcome Center in 2010. The sculpture is now surrounded by a kid friendly surface which is permeable allowing water to cascade onto a blue "pool."

## 2: The Living World Building - Architecture & Art



### North Entrance

A 55,000 square foot all purpose building that cost \$17 million and opened in 1989, The Living World operates as the Zoo's northern entrance and has replaced the entrance at Kiener plaza that had been in use in some form or another since the Zoo opened in the mid 1910s. The Living World houses a Welcome Desk, The Treetop Shop, the Kudu Café, the Anheuser-Busch Theater, the

Bayer Education Gallery which incorporates the Wild Wonder Outpost Discovery Room, a lecture hall, a library, and the education, special events, and volunteer services departments. The shape of safari huts inspired the design of the roof. There are ten sculptures and bas reliefs along the top of the building by Robert Cassilly, Jr. Animals represented are a Mandrill, a Barn Owl, a Jackson's Chameleon, an Asian Horned Frog, a Sea Horse, a Rhinoceros Beetle, a Chambered Nautilus, a Brittle Star, a Toad, a Crab, and a Trilobite.

## 3: Life Sized Sea Creatures - Art



### The Living World Rotunda

"The squid required a whole new technique for me. It was like making a surfboard," said Robert Cassilly, Jr., who described himself as "a sculptor, in general" in an interview with the New York Times. The 50-foot Giant Squid is one of four sea creatures Cassilly created for "The Living World," a pavilion that now serves as the Zoo's north entrance. The Giant Squid's complicated

shape required, instead of a simple mold, the construction of steel armatures, over which he sprayed a polyurethane foam, a material used in making surfboards. The fiberglass shells were applied after the hardened foam was carved. The other life-sized animals include a 28-foot Great White Shark, 14-foot Hammerhead Shark, and a 14-foot Manta Ray. A Pteranodon, once part of the exhibit, was returned to Cassilly Studios.

#### 4: Circular Fountain - Art



#### Discovery Corner Railroad Station

There are two fountains of this type, the other is located at the Marlin Perkins Plaza. This fountain was donated by Howard F. Baer in honor of his wife's birthday. This one at the Discovery Corner Railroad Station is inscribed "For Isabel Who Loves Children." The fountains were designed by Gyo Obata, an architect for the Saint Louis based firm of Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum and installed in 1962.

#### 5: Waiting for Sockeye - Art



#### Centene Grizzly Ridge Exhibit

"Waiting for Sockeye" is a bronze recasting of a piece by Kent Ullberg that was originally commissioned by the National Museum of Wildlife Art when the Museum moved to its current location overlooking the National Elk Refuge in Wyoming. The contours of the grizzly's back intentionally mirror the rolling landscape of the Gros Ventre Mountains. The title of this piece refers to the

annual sockeye salmon migration, when the fish travel upstream to their spawning grounds. The bear's pose suggests he is patiently gazing down into a stream, awaiting the opportunity to catch some fish. The piece located near the Grizzly Ridge exhibit was installed in September 2017 when the exhibit opened and was a gift from the David Lichtenstein Foundation.

#### 6: Emperor Penguin - Art



#### Outside Penguin & Puffin Coast

Wildlife sculptor Anthony J. "Buddy" Obara created this lost wax process life-size bronze sculpture of an emperor penguin which was installed in 2013 outside the Penguin & Puffin Coast at the Zoo. 2013 marked the 50th anniversary of the Wild Kingdom television show and to commemorate the series which became an American cultural icon, The Explorers Club created the new Marlin

Perkins/Jim Fowler Lifetime Artist-in-Residence Award. This first edition of the award was given to Obara for his years of work creating bronze wildlife sculptures. The other penguin pieces in the area were not done by Obara.

#### 7: Mary Ann Lee Conservation Carousel - Architecture & Art



#### Between the Polar Bear Exhibit & The Wild Railroad Station

The Mary Ann Lee Conservation Carousel, features 64 colorful hand-carved wooden animals, representing protected and endangered species at the Zoo. It was built by Carousel Works in 2003. Proceeds from the Mary Ann Lee Conservation Carousel help support the WildCare Institute, developed by the Zoo in 2004, which

is dedicated to creating a sustainable solution for wildlife and people sharing the environment.

## 8: Kiener Memorial Entrance - Architecture



### Between Polar Bear Exhibit & The Wild Railroad Station

The arches at Kiener Memorial Entrance gate are located at the former north entrance to the Zoo. They were named in honor of Harry J. Kiener who was born in Saint Louis in 1881. He was an amateur boxer, wrestler and swimmer, but he is most noted for being on the U.S. track team at the Olympics held in Saint Louis in 1904 during the World's Fair. Kiener died in 1960 at the age of

80. The serpentine walls and the Kiener Memorial Entrance gate were designed by William Adair Bernoudy. The gates are a free standing structure with seven arches that resemble a Roman aqueduct connecting two sections of the Serpentine wall. This entrance was closed sometime after The Living World opened when it was determined that there were too many entrances to the Zoo.

## 9: Serpentine Wall - Architecture



### Saint Louis Zoo boundary wall Government Drive, Washington, and Wells Drive

The design of the Serpentine Wall, also known as the "Thomas Jefferson Wall", was inspired by Thomas Jefferson's incorporation of serpentine walls into the architecture of the University of Virginia, which he founded. Serpentine walls (more commonly called crinkle crinkle walls) economize on bricks, despite its

sinuous wavy configuration, because it can be just one brick thin. If a wall this thin were to be made in a straight line, without buttresses, it would easily topple over. The alternate convex and concave curves in the wall provide stability and help it to resist lateral forces. The curves also allow plantings that need both shade and sun. The Serpentine Walls were considered controversial when they were put up. The Zoo's reasoning for erecting the walls was to keep the animals safe by preventing vandals and packs of wild dogs from entering the Zoo at night. Many in the public didn't like the walls because they could no longer see the animals from the walkways and park roads. The serpentine walls and the Kiener Memorial Entrance gate were designed by William Adair Bernoudy and erected in 1962-1963.

## 10: Haglin Memorial - Art



### The Wild Railroad Station

4'H, 2'W, 2'D / 1968

Created in memory of Christopher Haglin, this piece is comprised of small animals cast in bronze which form the surface of this sculpture. The piece was made possible through donations from his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Haglin, his friends, and about \$300 from his classmates. Chris died from unknown causes in 1967.

The artist, William Conrad Severson, worked with Mrs. Myra Johnson, a teacher at Ladue Elementary School (later Reed School), which Chris attended. Severson provided the school's six-graders with clay and instructed them to create small animals. Chris' parents and siblings also made some of the animals. Severson then cast 65 pieces, some duplicated more than

once, into approximately 200 individual animals which he then welded together to make the piece. The sculpture was then located in a plaza near what is now the Wild Railroad Station in 1968. Drinking fountains, which the Zoo needed at the time, were installed and surround the piece. Note that the plaque reads that the sculpture was dedicated not to Chris but to the children of Saint Louis with an inscription that reads "Love is understanding. To the children of Saint Louis from Chris and all who loved him."

## 11: 1904 World's Fair Flight Cage - **Architecture**



### **North side of the Zoo**

The Smithsonian Institution commissioned the Flight Cage for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition (1904 World's Fair). It is 228 feet long, 84 feet wide, and 50 feet high. The Saint Paul Foundry of Minnesota built the structure. A central arched passageway allowed Fair visitors to walk through the Flight Cage, which was screened into sections. The northern half housed larger

birds such as geese, swans, and flamingos while the southern half housed smaller birds such as quails, ducks, jays, and cardinals. The Flight Cage was designed by James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the U.S. Treasury. The Flight Cage was intended to be relocated to the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C. following the Fair, but the appropriations bill that funded construction of the cage gave the City of Saint Louis the option to buy the structure. Saint Louisans rallied to keep the Flight Cage intact, and the City of Saint Louis soon purchased it for \$3,500 (the structure had originally cost \$17,500 to construct). Within a few short years, it served as the impetus for Saint Louis to develop a full-fledged zoo - the first municipally supported zoo in the world.

The Flight Cage, as it is still known, remains one of the world's largest free-flight aviaries. In 1967 the Flight Cage was closed temporarily while extensive remodeling that included a boardwalk took place. The superstructure was restored in 1996. In 2004, to mark the centennial of the World's Fair, the Flight Cage was again modified, this time to house the new Edward. K. Love Conservation Foundation Cypress Swamp exhibit. The Cypress Swamp is the Zoo's first major exhibit to focus entirely on native Missouri animals and ecosystems and includes such water birds as the Double-Crested Cormorants, Bufflehead Ducks, Canvasback Ducks, and Great and Snowy Egrets in a setting representative of the wetlands of southeastern Missouri that were carved out by the meandering Mississippi River over thousands of years.

## 12: Multi-panel Wetlands Mosaic - **Art**



### **1904 World's Fair Flight Cage western entrance**

This mosaic was completed in 2004 as part of the Zoo's renovation of the Flight Cage to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 1904 World's Fair in Saint Louis, where the Flight Cage was unveiled. The mosaic is over 5 feet high and 54 feet long and is made of natural stone, marble, quartz, and tile. The design continues above and below the mosaic with sculptured concrete.

The mosaic was designed and put together by Steve Strickland and Mary Brong. Zoo keepers, donors, children, and volunteers were given the opportunity to place a piece onto the mosaic.

### 13: Phil the Gorilla - Art



#### **Jungle of the Apes plaza**

The statue is 1 1/4 life size (1/4 larger than life size)  
1985

This bronze statue by William Timym is modeled after Phil the Gorilla, one of the Zoo's all-time favorite animals. On September 10, 1941, Phil the Gorilla arrived at the Zoo. Weighing 30 pounds, he had been captured in Cameroon (then known as French Equatorial Africa),

and was named after Phil Carroll, the collector who brought him to Saint Louis. The Zoo had purchased Phil and three other gorillas for a total of \$14,000.

At one time, Phil was estimated by Zoo Director George Vierheller to have weighed 776 pounds, and was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest lowland gorilla in captivity. His normal diet consisted of 22 pounds of vegetables a day, along with an orange soda. He was always a zoo favorite, so when he became ill and stopped eating, concerned fans started bringing him food from their homes. Local newspapers featured daily updates on his health and when he died on December 1, 1958, it was front page news. An autopsy determined that the cause was ulcerative colitis. In 1975, a zoologist calculated Phil's weight by measuring his bones and estimated that he weighed 550 pounds.

Phil is still popular among visitors with children posing on Phil's back for photos. "Stuffed" by Schwarz Studios, the taxidermy of the real Phil, is currently housed in the Zoo's Education Department Exploration Outpost and can be seen by making an appointment to view it.

### 14: Peabody Hall - Architecture & Art



#### **Northern side of Historic Hill next to the Bird House**

Built in 1917, Peabody Hall is the oldest building at the Zoo. Called the Elephant House for years, this Renaissance Revival building features a buff brick façade. The elephant head sculpture mounted on the building's west wall and a large stone urn underneath it can be seen in early photos of the building. Originally valued at \$23,718, the structure was built to house Miss Jim, a 38-year old retired circus performer, who the Zoo bought in 1916 for \$3,000, \$2,384 of which was raised by the children of Saint Louis who donated to a penny campaign. The hoopla over the arrival of Miss Jim was timely. She arrived in the midst of the Zoological Society's campaign for a zoo tax. It was hoped that the children's enthusiasm would carry weight with the voters. And it did. The zoo tax was the only one of six tax bills on the ballot to be passed and made the

Saint Louis Zoo the first zoo in the world to be supported by the community with a mill tax. This support helps allow the Saint Louis Zoo to provide free admission to all visitors. The Saint Louis Zoo remains one of three major free zoos in the United States, the others being the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago and the National Zoo in Washington, D.C.. The Elephant House became the home of many other animals including Steve the hippopotamus and Harry the Zoo's prize Indian rhinoceros. Notice the tall doors designed to allow the elephants easy access.

Animals vacated the Elephant House in 1957 when a new facility and arena were completed. The Zoo's herd moved to the River's Edge in 1999. For over half a century, the Elephant

House served as an employee break room, training site, and storage facility. In 2010, the building was fully renovated to become an exhibit hall and rental facility and is called Peabody Hall after Peabody Energy donated \$2.5 million to renovate the 5,000-square-foot building. From 2010 to 2012 Peabody Hall was home to "Zootennial," an exhibit celebrating the Saint Louis Zoo's history. During the following few years, "Inspired by Nature: The Wildlife Art of Robert Bateman" was open seasonally to the public.

## 15: "Inspired by Nature: The Wildlife Art of Robert Bateman" - Art



### Peabody Hall - Northern side of Historic Hill

A coyote stands nobly, a black wolf silhouettes against a night sky and a tiger emerges in the dawn. Inspired by Nature, is a collection of over 20 stunning major wildlife original paintings by Canadian naturalist, internationally acclaimed wildlife artist, and conservationist, Robert Bateman. This beautiful exhibition was made possible through the generous bequest of longtime Zoo donors,

C. C. Johnson and Edith Spink. The exhibit closed in 2018.

## 16: Historic Hill - Architecture



Historic Hill is the Zoo's oldest area and only formally laid out zone. The area features the 1904 World's Fair Flight Cage and the 1920s and 1930s Primate, Reptile, and Bird houses with their Spanish style architecture. Historic Hill also contains what remains of the Chain of Lakes, an early feature of the zoo. The Chain of Lakes originally consisted of 12 pools linked by water flowing from the upper pools to the lower ones over natural rock

ledges culminating in a sea lion basin. There is some remaining architectural features of an Italian terrace that dates back to the 1920s under the Marlin Perkins Plaza.

The Zoo's first Director, George Vierheller, often told the story of how he and the Zoo's architect John E. Wallace chose the Spanish style of architecture for the Zoo's Primate, Reptile, and Bird houses. The two men were visiting Washington, D.C. in 1919 when they walked into the Pan-American Building. They stood transfixed, taking in the tropical glories. (The building designed by John Crets and Albert Kelsey now houses the Organization of American States). "Hot and tired," Vierheller related, "we went into the Pan-American building. The restful vista of a patio planted with growing foliage and accentuated with colorful macaws greeted our eyes. We said 'Ahhh,' in unison. Other visitors came in. They said 'Ahhh!' John and I were in complete agreement from that moment on. We wanted our visitors to say 'Ahhh' when they entered our future buildings, not 'Pugh! It smells'."



## 17: Bird House - Architecture



### Northern side of Historic Hill

The Bird House, which opened in 1930, was the Zoo architect John E. Wallace's favorite building, he once told a reporter. The structure he designed quickly became known for his innovative touches. Instead of wire caging that would obstruct the views of the birds, Wallace installed enclosures fronted with clear glass and made with wide side panels. This allowed the birds to be seen clearly through the glass and heard through the

wire. As with the Primate and Reptile houses, Spanish architecture dominated both the exterior and interior design of the structure. When the Bird House was remodeled in 1978, much of the original architectural concept was preserved. The inside atrium was refurbished, but the surrounding enclosures were replaced with new larger more natural areas. The glass-paneled barriers gave way to way to ones made of very thin stain-less steel wires, nearly invisible to viewers and camera lens. The updated Bird House won a Significant Achievement Award in 1980 from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

## 18: Bird House Exterior Adornments - Art



### Northern side of Historic Hill

Wallace adorned the stucco exterior of the Bird House with terra-cotta details including painted ostriches and penguins, and countless parrots, cardinals, and finches.

## 19: Bird House Interior Adornments - Art



### Northern side of Historic Hill

In the interior heavy wooden beams of the Bird House, balconies, terracotta tiles and hanging brass light fixtures contributed to the Bird House's hacienda flavor when it opened in 1930. In the building's central atrium was a free-flight area, sometimes called the "Swamp Scene," planted with tropical plants where birds stayed of their own volition. The birds stay in this area during the day to

avoid people but roam the building at night. Miniature sculptures of various avian species were incorporated in the capitals and cornices of its columns and walls. The original architecture was preserved when the building was remodeled in 1978. Today there are approximately 6,500 tropical plants of nearly 110 varieties growing in the exhibits and the public planting spaces. The selection of plants was based on their compatibility with the birds displayed, and the exhibit's theme, as well as the light requirements, hardiness, and availability of the plants. Interpretive graphics illustrating various avian characteristics were added, including a paper sculpture of a flamingo in the south entrance vestibule.

## 20: Zuni Bird Charmer - Art



**Northern side of Historic Hill next to the Bird House**  
5'H, 4'W, 3'D / 1931

donated to the Saint Louis Zoo in 1932

Walker Hancock was commissioned to produce this bronze with granite pedestal statue in memorial to Mrs. Jessie Tennille Maschmeyer by her widower Augustus. The sculpture is a bird charmer of the Pueblo Zuni tribe that have lived in the American Southwest for thousands

of years and was carefully designed to fit both the prominent setting in front of the Flight Cage and to reflect Mrs. Maschmeyer's interests in children and bird watching. The sculpture originally incorporated drinking fountains before it was moved to its present position. The sculpture shows the figure of a kneeling man with both arms extended. Two birds sit on either hand. The bronze figure rests on a 3-part granite base which originally incorporated the two drinking fountains. The base rests on a bronze plinth. The piece is one of the oldest pieces of art that the Zoo has in its collection.

## 21: Antelope House - Architecture



### Red Rocks

After the success of the naturalistic bear pits of the early 1920s, the Zoological Board of Control decided that the new home for the hoofed animals would resemble the giant elephant-shaped red-granite formations at what is now known as Elephant Rocks State Park in Iron County about 90 miles south of Saint Louis. The building was completed in 1935 and its inner building provides the

base that is encompassed by the realistic looking red rock formations. Workers first formed a metal lath over steel bars embedded in the concrete foundation, upon which they applied coatings of gunite ( a form of sprayed concrete), to which they added a one-inch thick layer of a mix of crushed granite, cement, and red coloring. Finally, they pressure washed the rocks for a smooth surface and "aged" them with stains of brown, green, gray, and black. The inside of the building (which is open to the public only when the weather is cold and the animals stay inside) can give visitors a sense of what zoos were like in the early 20th century. In 1937, the second phase of the project added more rock-studded enclosures. The construction was a part of the Works Progress Administration program under the New Deal which contributed labor and nearly half the funding. Red Rocks is a section of the Zoo that houses many of its mixed-species exhibits where mammals and birds share the same space as they would if they were in the wild.

## 22: Daga Boys - Art



### Top of Historic Hill between Bird House & Big Cat Country

This bronze piece by T.D. Kelsey was installed in 2002 and represents two older African buffalo. Daga is a local African name for "mud." Daga boys are what locals call the older water buffalo when they have slowed down. Kelsey also specializes in bronze sculptures of wildlife and western subjects although he is known as an animal

artist above anything else. Daga Boys was originally placed in a different part of the Red Rocks area.

### 23: Marlin Perkins Plaza - Art



#### Across from Red Rocks Train Station

The Marlin Perkins Plaza opened in 1987 and consists of flower beds and a semi-circular wall on which are mounted five bas-reliefs. A bronze bust of Perkins is situated in the center of the plaza. The cast-bronze bas-reliefs depict men feeding a snake, baboons in the wild, hippos in the water, a group of elephants, and Perkins surrounded by children in a zoo setting. The Plaza and

the bust were made possible by Mutual of Omaha and the Zoo. Robert Cassilly, Jr. and the architectural firm of Peckham Guyton Albers & Viets collaborated on the plaza.

### 24: Marlin Perkins Bust - Art



#### Across from Red Rocks Train Station

4'H, 2'W, 2'D (not including the relief diorama behind the bust) / 1987

Robert Cassilly, Jr. created the bronze bust which is in the center of the Marlin Perkins Plaza and shows Perkins, a former director of the Saint Louis Zoo, holding a lion cub. Perkins was hired as a member of the grounds crew at the Zoo in 1926 but his expertise soon

led to his promotion to curator of the Zoo's reptile exhibit, which he made both sizable and popular over the following decade. His work would lead to his hiring as director of the Buffalo Zoo in Buffalo, New York in 1938. In 1962 Perkins returned to the Saint Louis Zoo as its second full-time director and began working on the popular TV show "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom." He retired as director of the Saint Louis Zoo in 1970. The Plaza and the bust were made possible by Mutual of Omaha and the Zoo.

### 25: Circular Fountain - Art



#### Marlin Perkins Plaza

There are two fountains of this type, the other is located at the Discovery Corner Railroad Station. This one located at the Marlin Perkins Plaza has no inscription. The fountains were designed by Gyo Obata, an architect for the Saint Louis based firm of Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum and installed in 1962.

## 26: Animals Always Sculpture - Art



### **Southeast corner of the Saint Louis Zoo**

Unveiled in 2006, Animals Always is the largest and most imposing sculpture in the Zoo's collection. If you enter Forest Park from Hampton Avenue, you can't miss it! It's 130 feet long, 36 feet tall, and consists of 100 tons and was brought to town on 15 flat bed trucks. Animals Always is the also largest sculpture at any public zoo in the United States and larger than any sculpture in Saint

Louis except the Arch. Animals Always features over 60 animals peeking out from behind sculpted trees, ferns, and other plant life. Many of the animals and plant life depicted are also endangered, so this piece helps inspire future generations to protect our natural world.

Animals Always is made of Cor-Ten or weathering steel. The steel is formulated to oxidize a thin, almost chocolate brown coating that stabilizes over time, protecting the steel beneath better than painted steel. The sculptor, Albert Paley, worked closely with the Zoo staff to represent animals that are featured at the Zoo. Development and drawing took about a year and two years were spent in the design phase before any metal work began. A silhouette of an animal was created out of cardboard, shaped, and formed, and then reworked until the pattern was acceptable. The cardboard was then unbent, laid out and drawn. Then the pieces were redrawn, scanned into a computer, laser-cut out of steel, articulated, and welded together.

Paley conceived the idea of this steel menagerie more than two years before he met Saint Louisan Thelma Zalk. While touring his studio, Zalk noticed a part of an unfinished animal-themed gate that Paley had started for the Central Park Zoo. "It was just fabulous," she said. Because the Central Park Zoo had decided against having it finished Zalk told Paley she wanted it for the Saint Louis Zoo. Zalk donated \$1 million to make the sculpture come to life. The Steve Schankman family donated \$1 million to create a plaza for the sculpture.

## 27: George Phillip Vierheller Statue - Art



### **In front of the Primate House**

6'H, 2'W, 2'D / 1962

Howard and Isabel Baer commissioned Richard Frazier to create a retirement statue of Zoo Director George Phillip Vierheller. Vierheller was the Zoo's first Director serving from 1922 to 1962. Vierheller was the public face of the Zoo, posing with his pals Miss Jim the elephant, Phil the gorilla, Harry the rhino and Moby Dick, an

elephant seal. Under his direction, chimp, lion, and elephant shows were developed not only to draw huge crowds but also worldwide publicity for the growing Zoo. Vierheller was often seen driving around in his convertible, puffing on a cigar, accompanied by a chimpanzee in the passenger seat. This piece was intended for the fountain concourse designed by Saint Louis architect Gyo Obata, but the life-size scale was lost on the vast concourse. Shortly after it was installed the sculpture was relocated to the Wild Train Station site. It was subsequently relocated to its current site in front of the Primate House in 2006.

## 28: Primate House - Architecture



### Southern side of Historic Hill

The Primate House (originally called the Monkey House) opened to the public on January 13, 1925. Funding for the building was made possible by a 1923 bond issue that also provided for the construction of buildings for reptiles and birds. Zoo Architect John E. Wallace designed this Spanish-style structure, giving it a buff stucco exterior and terra-cotta trim ornamented with

simian characters. The interior included a skylight upheld by Corinthian columns and spacious aisles for visitors. In the central patio, tropical plants surrounded a large-group enclosure with capuchin and spider monkeys. In 1977 the Primate House was reopened after extensive remodeling. The rich façade, exterior ornamental detailing, central patio, and Corinthian columns were retained but the cages were replaced with exhibits featuring naturalistic displays of rockwork, trees, and foliage to represent the native habits of the primates that live there. The second floor served as the Zoo's administrative offices for many years.

Zoo Director George Vierheller acknowledged there had been some unfavorable criticism over the Primate House's \$200,000 price tag but said "this criticism was quickly dispelled after one visit to the building."

## 29: Primate House Exterior Adornments - Art



### Southern side of Historic Hill

The buff stucco exterior and terra-cotta trim of the Primate House is ornamented with simian characters including Sam the orangutan, one of the Zoo's more colorful characters. George Dieckman of the Zoological Society bought Sam from a circus in 1918. Most days at 3 p.m., the orangutan would tour the grounds on a velocipede - an oversized tricycle - stopping at the

refreshment stand, where his trainer, Max Mall, would buy him an ice cream cone.

## 30: Primate House Interior Adornments - Art



### Primate House Interior

The Corinthian columns in the center of the Primate House are original to the building. Only tropical plants remain in the center patio area, the cages were removed during the remodeling.

### 31: Baboon Money Collection Box - Art



#### In front of the Primate House

3'H, 2'W, 2'D / 1992

The bronze baboon, with mouth agape, is a multi-purpose work of art. It uses one of the more popular primates to enhance the Zoo grounds and it collects money to support the animals and activities that the Zoo offers for free. The artist of the piece is Robert Cassilly, Jr.

### 32: Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium - Architecture



#### Southern side of Historic Hill

Once called the Reptile House with a small mammal wing, this building was designed by Zoo architect John E. Wallace in the same Spanish style as the adjacent Primate House. It was constructed in 1927 and cost \$185,000. The building was completely renovated in 1978, preserving its rich décor while vastly improving its animal exhibits. Montane, temperate, tropical and desert

are represented habitats for reptiles and amphibians. Modern "back-to-nature" exhibits are climate controlled and include native vegetation, soil, rocks, and water effects appropriate to each of the approximately 150 species of reptiles. In 2002 the Reptile House was renamed the Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium in honor of the Zoo's Director Emeritus.

### 33: Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium Exterior Adornments - Art



#### Southern side of Historic Hill

Cindy Berger, a longtime Zoo volunteer, likes to point out the intricate details that Zoo architect John E. Wallace designed onto the exteriors of the Primate House, Herpetarium, and Bird House. Outside the Herpetarium, she asks tour groups to look for these decorative animals: common snapping turtles (10), bullfrogs (17), hooded king cobras (11), frilled lizards (4), large snakes

(8) crocodylians (4), small turtles (16), baby sea turtles (8), and tree frogs (2). She also asks people where the largest iguanas are found. (Answer: the roof).

### 34: Charles H. Hoessle Herpetarium Interior Adornments - Art



#### Herpetarium Interior

In the building's center, Zoo architect John E. Wallace placed an atrium with a pool camouflaged as a swamp for crocodiles and alligators. The fence surrounding the atrium is decorated with little figures of lizards and turtles and spaced by Corinthian columns original to the building. Today the atrium is home to a variety of large water turtles.

### 35: Alligator Snapping Turtle Money Collection Box - [Art](#)



#### **In front of the Herpetarium**

3'H, 2'W, 2'D

The bronze Alligator Snapping Turtle is a multi-purpose work of art. It uses one of the more popular reptiles to enhance the Saint Louis Zoo grounds and it collects money to support the animals and activities that the Zoo offers for free. The artist of the piece is Robert Cassilly, Jr.

### 36: Charles H. Hoessle Statue - [Art](#)



#### **In front of the Herpetarium**

Charles H. Hoessle, who had a 42-year career at the Saint Louis Zoo and was its Director from 1982 to 2002. Hoessle joined the staff of the Saint Louis Zoological Park in 1963 as a reptile keeper. In 1964, he was appointed assistant curator, during which time he established the Zoo's Education Department. Hoessle was the host of the "Saint Louis Zoo Show," a weekly

television program that aired from 1968-1978. He is now Director Emeritus.

The bronze statue of Hoessle, installed in 2005, depicts him with a large boa constrictor draped around his neck. Reptiles fascinated him since he was a boy and much like the statue there are many pictures of Hoessle with a snake around his neck. Renowned sculptor Stanley Bleifeld was commissioned to create the statue, which was funded by the Emerson Company and friends of Charlie.

### 37: Charles H. Hoessle Statue Background Boulders - [Art](#)



#### **In front of the Herpetarium**

Reproductions of various reptile petroglyphs on the boulders surrounding the Charles H. Hoessle Statue were suggested by sculptor Stanley Bleifeld and carved by Mike Gomez of Saint Louis Stone. On the stone benches around the statue and a large stone pillar in front of the Herpetarium are petroglyph images that include a crocodile from Australia, snakes from native

American art, and a sea turtle from Easter Island, to name a few. The boulders were hand selected from a quarry in Missouri near Elephant Rocks State Park.

### 38: Hermann Fountain with California Sea Lion Sculpture - [Art](#)



#### **Hermann Plaza / South Entrance**

This feature was a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Hermann, Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Hermann Jr., and Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Holton. The sea lion sculptures were made by Robert Cassilly, Jr.

### 39: South Parking Lot Entrance Art - Art



#### South Parking Lot Entrance

The Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation South Arrival Experience includes a pedestrian bridge connecting the south parking lot to the south entrance of the Zoo. The Wells Fargo South Arrival Experience includes life-size bronze sculptures by Kent Ullberg and T.D. Kelsey including a 19-foot-tall African elephant, meerkats, warthogs, and a lioness with cubs, among other animals.

The sculptures were made possible by Casa Audlon Charitable Lead Trust, established by Mahlon Wallace III and Audrey Wallace Otto. The pedestrian bridge, opened in 2010, spans Wells Drive, allowing for guests to pass safely from the south parking lot to the Zoo entrance.

### 40: Saint Louis Zoo Sign - Art



#### South Parking Lot

31 feet tall and 7 feet wide / 1982

The Zoo sign at the South Entrance (The Howard F. Baer Plaza) parking lot is made of Indiana limestone, its architects were Mackey and Associates of Saint Louis, and the piece was designed by an unknown CBS Radio designer. The piece was erected in 1982 when the south entrance was opened. The sign stood in front of the south entrance until it was relocated when work on a pedestrian bridge was begun.

### 41: Sun Dial Fountain - Art



#### Between Hermann Plaza and River's Edge

Inscription: "In memory of Jane Howell Stupp 1930-1989 Dedicated by her friends and family. Her spirit cast forever upon the oceans of the world."

### 42: River's Edge Sign - Art



#### Entrance to the River's Edge

The River's Edge Sign with fossil imprints and plaque is inscribed with the following message about rivers: "Rivers are the lifblood of the planet. They connect our lands, our wildlife, our cultures. Carrying nutrients and water, the essentials for all living things, rivers sustain the diversity of life. Take a look at our River's Edge, a mythical river which traverse four continents, and see



how wildlife, plant life and human populations interact at its edge." The sign was designed by Kiku Obata and Company and produced by Pacific Studio of Seattle.

#### 43: Ganesha Shrine - Art



##### **Between Elephant Yards 1 & 2 on the River's Edge walkway**

Ganesha, also known as Ganapati and Vinayaka, is one of the best-known and most worshipped deities in the Hindu pantheon. His image is found throughout India, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Hindu sects worship him regardless of affiliations. Although he is known by many attributes, Ganesha's elephant head makes him easy to identify.

Ganesha is widely revered as the remover of obstacles, the patron of arts and sciences and the deva of intellect and wisdom. As the god of beginnings, he is honored at the start of rituals and ceremonies. This piece is a replica of a rural shrine to Ganesha and pays tribute to the relationship between man and elephants.

#### 44: Centaurus Beetle - Art



##### **In front of the Insectarium**

8' L (may be 10')

This large abstract sculpture of a Centaurus Beetle is by metal sculptor Bill Secunda and is comprised of steel plate with a rubberized coating. This sculpture was installed in front of the Bayer Insectarium in 2000. Secunda also did the Ants and Walking Stick on the side of the building. The Centaurus Beetle is one of the

favorite photo ops in the Zoo and is a favorite among young visitors who crawl all over the abstract sculpture.

#### 45: Butterfly Dome - Architecture



##### **Bayer Insectarium**

A dramatic part of the Insectarium is the Mary Ann Lee Butterfly Wing, a geodesic dome of tropical plants and flowers, rock outcroppings, a waterfall and pool. Here nearly a hundred butterflies and moths flutter near the pathways and overhead. David Mason & Associates designed the \$4 million, 9,000 square foot Insectarium which opened in 2000. It houses educational exhibits

and an active breeding and research facility in addition to the Mary Ann Lee Butterfly Wing.

#### 46: Ring of Bright Water - Art



##### **Discovery Corner / Children's Zoo**

Ring of Bright Water is 7 foot bronze on stone piece by Kent Ullberg that portrays two otters at play. The sculpture is a recasting of a piece that was commissioned by Saint Eriks Cathedral in Stockholm, Sweden and installed in 1997. The piece in the Zoo was installed in 1998 and was donated to the Zoo in memory of Mahlon Brookings Wallace, Jr. and Audrey Faust Wallace by their children. Castings of this sculpture can be found at other locations around the United States including the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, Texas and the R.W. Norton Art Gallery and Museum in Shreveport, Louisiana.

Ring of Bright Water, was inspired by and named after the 1960 autobiographical book by Gavin Maxwell about his life with otters on the remote west coast of Scotland. The novel was made into a movie in 1969. The title Ring of Bright Water was taken from the poem "The Marriage of Psyche" by Kathleen Raine, who said in her autobiography that Maxwell had been the love of her life.

#### 47: Hippopotamus - Art



##### **Discovery Corner / Children's Zoo**

5'H, 8'W, 4'D / 1986

This painted fiberglass piece was designed by Robert Cassilly, Jr. to be an interactive experience for children. The Hippopotamus has a large opening in its belly which invites children to climb in or pose for photographs.

#### 48: Elephant Fountain - Art



##### **Between Discovery Corner / Children's Zoo & The Living World**

7'H, 15'W, 10'D

This bronze sculpture is of a young 5-year old male African elephant with its head upraised. The piece is actually a fountain situated in a shallow pool of water. The artist was William Timym who designed the sculpture so that water squirts continually from the

elephant's trunk over its back. A pump connected to a cove in the South Lake circulates water through the elephant where ammonia, carbon dioxide, and other harmful substances are filtered out before the water returns to the lake. The work was installed in 1989 and is one of the generous gifts by Saint Louis philanthropists Sidney and Sadie Cohen.

## Prominent People

### Saint Louis Zoo Architect

#### **John E. Wallace**

(1891 - 1975)

As a young man John E. Wallace worked for architects in Saint Louis while attending night school. One of his first assignments after joining the Saint Louis Zoo in 1917 was working on the bar less bear pits with Victor Borchardt, who designed a similar exhibit for the Denver Zoo. After George Vierheller was named superintendent of the Zoo, he and Wallace worked together to design a zoo that would stress naturalistic surroundings that were clean and pleasant to both animals and visitors. Wallace's vision of combining beauty with utility lives on in the grand buildings on Historic Hill - the Primate House, the Herpetarium, and the Bird House. The buildings, which served as a model for the zoo world of Wallace's day, were all extensively remodeled in the 1970s while maintaining the integrity of his original designs. Wallace was involved in all aspects of the design of the Zoo from buildings to animal exhibits to sewers and water lines.

### Artists

#### **Robert Bateman**

(1930 - )

Zoo contribution: Inspired by Nature art exhibit

Robert Bateman was always interested in art, but never intended to make a living from it. He was fascinated by the natural world in his childhood and did small paintings with birds in their habitats near his home. His work started to receive major recognition in the 1970s and 1980s. Bateman's show in 1987, at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, drew the largest crowd for a living artist. The majority of Bateman's paintings are acrylic on various media, and have been shown in major one-man exhibitions around the world. In 1999, the Audubon Society of Canada declared Bateman one of the top 100 environmental proponents of the 20th century.

#### **William Adair Bernoudy**

(1910 -1988)

Zoo contributions: Serpentine Wall and Kiener Memorial Gates

William Adair Bernoudy was an American architect. Bernoudy was born in Saint Louis. He studied under Frank Lloyd Wright in the 1930s. He is noted for the many modernist homes and public buildings he designed, mostly in the Saint Louis area.

#### **Stanley Bleifeld**

(1924 - 2011)

Zoo contribution: Charles H. Hoessle Statue

Stanley Bleifeld was an American sculptor who was born in Brooklyn, New York. Bleifeld is best known for his national monument, "Lone Sailor," for the U.S. Navy Memorial (he served in the Navy in World War II) in Washington, D.C.

## **Mary Brong**

The Wetlands Mosaic at the Flight Cage, co-designed by Brong and Steve Strickland, is one of the many contributions that Mary Brong has made to the Zoo. Brong currently serves as Director, Exhibits and Interpretation, at the Saint Louis Zoo.

## **Robert J. Cassilly Jr.**

(1949 - 2011)

Zoo contributions: Untitled (Limestone boulders), The Living World Life-Sized Sea Creatures, Marlin Perkins Plaza, Marlin Perkins Bust, Baboon Money Collection Box, Alligator Snapping Turtle Money Collection Box, Hippopotamus in the Children's Zoo, Sea Lion Sculpture in the Hermann Fountain.

Robert J. Cassilly, Jr. was an American sculptor, entrepreneur, and creative director. Based in Saint Louis, Missouri, Cassilly was the founder of the idiosyncratic City Museum, which draws over 700,000 visitors a year and is one of the city's leading tourist attractions. Cassilly studied sculpture under Rudolph Torrini at Fontbonne College and was its first male graduate. Cassilly has done many pieces for the Saint Louis Zoo and also created the sculptures for Turtle Park in Saint Louis and the Hippo Playground in Manhattan's Riverside Park.

## **Mike Gomez**

Zoo contribution: Charles H. Hoessle Statue Background Boulders

Mike Gomez creates pieces of art from stone from a workshop at Saint Louis Stone & Supply. Gomez grew up in sculpting. He was born in northern Spain into a line of sculptors, dating back to the 13th century. His grandfather was a master sculptor in Spain. When Gomez was 9, his family moved to the United States, where his father helped build monuments in New York. Gomez's works have ranged from a small bust of a person's head to residential and church statues.

## **Walker Hancock**

(1901 - 1998)

Zoo contribution: Zuni Bird Charmer

Walker Hancock was a native Saint Louisian who studied sculpture at Washington University under Victor Holm. He was Resident Sculptor of the American Academy in Rome and became the Director of the Pennsylvania Academy of Art. Among others, he was commissioned to create the Eisenhower Inaugural Medal. Hancock was part of the World War II unit that the United States sent into Germany to rescue masterpieces from the Nazis and that was the subject of the 2014 movie "Monuments Men."

## **Richard Frazier**

(1922 - 1983)

Zoo contribution: George Phillip Vierheller Statue

Richard Frazier studied at the John Burroughs School, Saint Louis, under Caroline Risque, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, under Walker Hancock, Paul Manship, and Harry Rosen, and at the Barnes Foundation, Merion, Pennsylvania. He designed the George Vierheller Monument for the Saint Louis Zoo and the statue Friendship for Blerencourt, France. He was a member of the National Sculpture Society and the Allied Artists of America.

**T. D. Kelsey**

(1946 - )

Zoo contributions: Daga Boys, South Parking Lot Entrance Art

T. D. Kelsey specializes in bronze sculptures of wildlife and western subjects although he is known as an animal artist above anything else. He was raised on a ranch in Bozeman, Montana, and participated in rodeos for several years during his youth. He then worked as a commercial pilot for United Airlines before resigning in 1979 to completely devote himself to his art. He has visited every continent except Antarctica, and is known for his intense, impressionistic sculptures.

**Anthony J. Obara**

(1948 - )

Zoo contribution: Emperor Penguin

Anthony J. Obara Jr. is a preeminent American animalier sculptor, self-taught in the manner of Antoine-Louis Barye, Pierre Jules Mene, and Isidore Bonheur, French sculptors of the 18th and 19 centuries. Obara casts each bronze using the traditional cire perdue "lost wax" process in which a molten metal is poured into a mold that has been created by means of a wax model. Once the mold is made, the wax model is melted and drained away. Obara is particularly well-known for the patinas on his sculptures.

**Gyo Obata**

(1923 - )

Zoo contribution: Circular Fountains

Gyo Obata is an American architect, the son of painter Chiura Obata and his wife, Haruko Obata, a floral designer. In 1955, he co-founded global architectural firm HOK (formerly Hellmuth, Obata + Kassabaum). He lives in Saint Louis, Missouri and still works in HOK's Saint Louis office. He has designed several notable buildings, including the McDonnell Planetarium at the Saint Louis Science Center and the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

**Albert Paley**

(1944 - )

Zoo contribution: Animals Always

Albert Paley is an American modernist metal sculptor. Initially starting out as a jeweler, Paley has become one of the most distinguished and influential metalsmiths in the world. Within each of his works, three foundational elements stay true: the natural environment, the built environment, and the human presence. Paley is the first metal sculptor to have received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Institute of Architects.

**Bill Secunda**

Zoo contribution: Centaurus Beetle & Ants and Walking Stick - Monsanto Insectarium

Bill Secunda is a self-taught metal sculptor who delights in creating the most detailed of insects to the wildest of creatures.

**William Conrad Severson**

(1924 - 1999)

Zoo contribution: Haglin Memorial

William Conrad Severson was an internationally acclaimed artist who sculpted works for corporate, institutional, liturgical, and private commissions. His artwork can be seen in the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Moscow. He was a co-founder and former president of the Saint Louis Sculptors Gallery, and the first artist-in-residence at the Missouri Council of the Arts program in Chillicothe, Missouri.

**Steve Strickland**

Zoo contribution: Wetlands Mosaic

**William Timym**

(1901 - 1990)

Zoo contributions: Phil the Gorilla, Elephant Fountain

William Timym, was an artist whose best known work is probably the Bleep and Booster cartoons for the BBC's Blue Peter. Timym (pronounced Tim) was born in Austria, grew up in Vienna and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. He moved to England in 1938 because of the Nazi occupation of Austria and during the Second World War produced a number of works for the Ministry of Information. He was also a bronze sculptor and created many realistic (rather than stylized) wildlife sculptures.

**Kent Ullberg**

(1945 - )

Zoo contributions: South Parking Lot Entrance Art, Ring of Bright Water, Waiting for Sockeye

A native of Sweden, Kent Ullberg is recognized as one of the world's foremost wildlife sculptors. Best known for his monumental works executed for museums and municipalities across the globe. His Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Omaha, Nebraska installations are the largest bronze wildlife compositions ever done, spanning several city blocks.