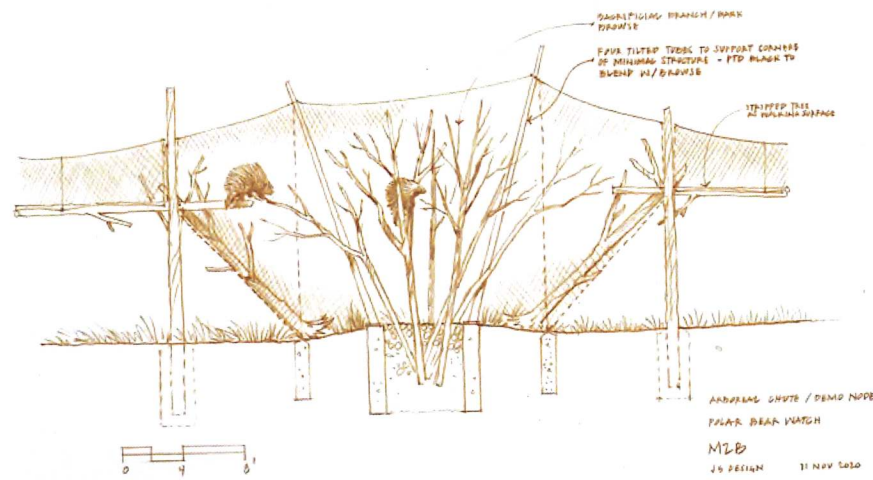


Event Node & "The Americas"

The old Elephant Building is located approximately at the mid-point of the Main Valley. It is an historically designated building constructed in 1926 and has not been used for animal holding or open to the public for over twenty years. The intent is to renovate the building and adjacent old Polar Bear Habitat as an event and education space. The building and outdoor space can be open to the public during regular Zoo operating hours and rented out for various small to medium sized functions during the late afternoons and evenings. The old Elephant Building, the Round Stand, and adjacent old animal habitats will create a compelling connection to the historical evolution of the Zoo that not many Zoos can present to their visitors.

Most visitors will pass through this space two times as they start their day heading towards the Northern Passage and Penguin Coast and, at the end of the day, when they return back to Schaefer Plaza. Re-purposing the historic buildings and some of the old habitats is one of the key goals for bringing back the Main Valley as the main visitor circulation option to enter the heart of the Zoo. In September 2021, the visitor connection from Schaefer Plaza to Zoo Central was re-established. Accordingly, the need for the Tram Loop that runs past the Mansion House down to gate sixteen was eliminated. The Zoo now provides some guest transportation with a smaller fleet of electric vehicles on Buffalo Yard Road from the area at gate two down to the turnaround space above the sand filter by The Naturalist Lodge.



Arboreal Chute and Demo Node



Evening function



New animal habitat



Event Plaza

