

# HUBBARD ORANGUTAN FOREST



**ACI NEBRASKA**  
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT



**OMAHA's**

**Henry Doorly Zoo**

This project involved renovating and reimagining the orangutan exhibit at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo. The existing exhibit, built over 40 years, included an upper and lower exhibit with multiple structures. The goal was to remove the oldest sections, expand animal care areas, and create a new outdoor exhibit.

The 19,000-square-foot design by Holland Basham focused on replicating the animals' natural habitat while enhancing the visitor experience. The project required selective demolition, new construction adjacent to existing structures, and careful planning to maintain functional space relationships.

Edge Themed Environments, with 23 years of experience in zoo projects, managed complex concrete elements. They constructed two temple structures with over 300 cast concrete medallions, some weighing over 3,000 pounds. Hand-carved concrete landforms created realistic habitats, and large artificial trees, reaching 20-25 feet high with 20-foot canopies, were built using rebar, concrete, and epoxy.

Public hallways retained original cast-in-place walls, now adorned with rock textures, lush foliage, and hand-carved orangutan portraits. Handmade concrete flowers replicate the size of those found in orangutan habitats, adding to the immersive experience.



**OWNER:** Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium  
**ARCHITECT:** Holland Basham Architects  
**MEP Engineer:** Morrissey Engineering  
**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:** Performance Engineering  
**CIVIL Engineer:** Lamp Rynearson  
**CONTRACTOR:** Kiewit Corporation  
**CONCRETE CONTRACTOR:** Edge Themed Environments