

Anna and the King

Anna, an English schoolteacher, is employed by the King of Siam to teach his children in a Buddhist temple. Anna was telling the children about her own long-ago trip through Egypt, when there suddenly fell from the roof above her head onto the centre of the map, which she stretched on the table, a coil of something that looked at first like a thick silk cord neatly rolled into a ball. In another instant the coil unrolled itself and began to move slowly away. Anna screamed, and forgetting her dignity fled to the far end of the temple expecting the children to follow her. When she turned, she was amazed to see all the royal pupils sitting quietly on their seats in an attitude of respect. Not a child had moved or made a sound. The temple was still. All the children's eyes were fixed on the snake as it moved in lazy curves along the entire length of the table. With a feeling of shame Anna returned to her seat to watch it. She even managed to share a little of the children's fascination as she looked into the clear eyes of the snake. She had never seen one like it. The snake moved on its slow way down the table. To Anna each second seemed an hour. She held her breath in terror as it dropped from the table to the arm of the chair of Prince Chulalongkorn. What if the child moved and the snake struck? She had no doubt that her own life would be taken in a moment if the young prince went to die under her care. She wanted to call out to him to hold perfectly still, but no sound came. She need not have worried, for he sat as motionless as the Buddha gleaming in the twilight behind him. Anna could not swallow or breathe until she saw the snake glide from the chair and crawl through the corridor and down the steps, and finally out of sight. Then she almost fainted with relief.

http://englishlinx.com/cgi-bin/pdf_viewer_5.cgi?script_name=%2Fpdf%2F7th-Anna-and-the-King.pdf&x=55&y=16

Zoo Hotel Pangea at Nyíregyháza-Sóstófürdő

The Nyíregyháza Zoo has needed a multifunctional Eco-Centre and hotel for a long time. The appearance, the spirit of the building, as well as the use of materials fit into the green environment of the zoo and the atmosphere of Sóstó, providing comfortable and unique conference rooms and accommodation to the large number of zoo experts and guests visiting the animal park.

The external appearance of the building reflects its location in Blaha Lujza Promenade, as well. The surrounding scenery includes the Blaha Lujza Promenade lined with trees on both sides, the water surface of Lake Sóstó, as well as fishing and bathing platforms built on the lake. These motifs are also represented on the street front of the building. The columns supporting the balconies appear as tree trunks, the balconies appear as independent platforms and the glistening glass curtain wall closing the inner space resembles the surface of the water. The facade is also covered with durable woodgrain gres boards with eco-effect, which convey monumental and elegant appearance.

In the internal spaces of the building, the visual world based on the fundamental concept is perceptible everywhere. Coarse, natural plastered surfaces, wooden and woodgrain surfaces prevail in all public areas, rooms and passages. In the rooms, the use of materials is also limited to wood and coarse, organic surfaces. In addition to creating functional, comfortable and nice room units, the same natural approach and use of materials appear everywhere, connecting all the spaces and raising them to the same ideal level.

All the rooms are unique and thematic, as they focus on a specific animal. The hanging corridors in front of the rooms encompass a four-storey high atrium covered by a glass roof. In this space, a tree motif starting from the lobby on the ground floor is creeping up towards the ceiling, providing extensive information on the life of plants and animals living in ecological zones at given heights for the guests of the hotel in different forms on each floor. The complex would provide comfortable high quality accommodation, the possibility of recreation and learning for the guests, and it would also serve as a venue for high-level, professionally organised zoo gatherings, conferences and external meetings.

<http://architectforum.eu/zoo-hotel-pangea-at-nyiregyhaza-sostofurdo>