



# Tropical World

## Phase 2

# Redevelopment Plan

*This document details a suggested redevelopment plan for Tropical World, building upon the improvements made during Winter 2014/15 in the Aquarium zone.*

*The redevelopment has been separated into six additional areas.*



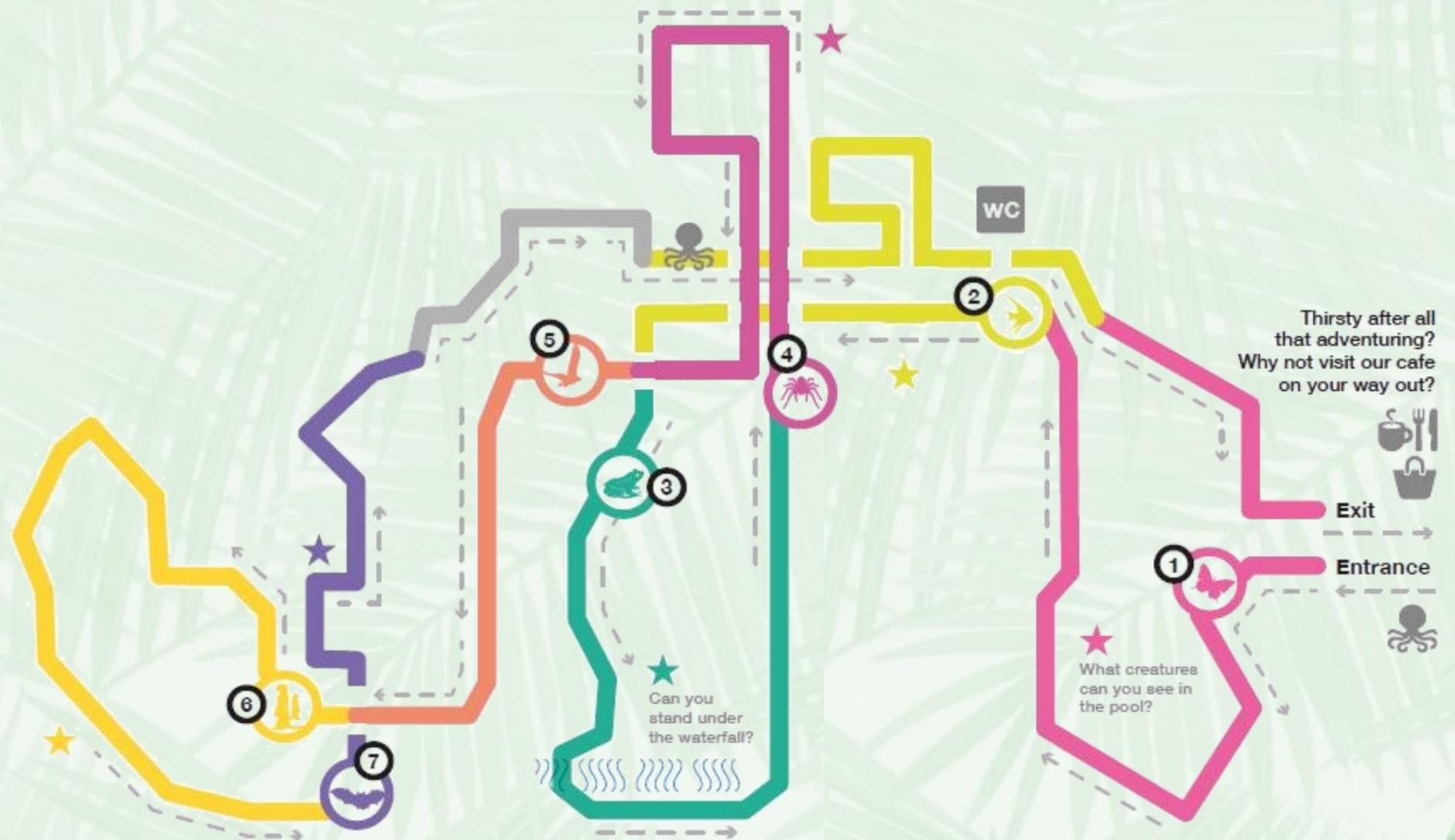
# Redevelopment Plan Overview

→ The Parks and Countryside service has sought to establish a holistic development and growth plan for implementation across three attractions: Tropical World; Temple Newsam—Home Farm; and Lotherton Hall Bird Garden.

*This document outlines the proposed developments at the Tropical World attraction.*

→ The principle aim of the next phase of development proposed for Tropical World will be to present a coherent, coordinated and visually stunning series of redevelopments that can be rolled out into the different 'zones' of Tropical World. Animal welfare, husbandry standards and visual attractiveness are the cornerstones of each suggested progression, Each zone will have a different look, atmosphere and sound to take the visitor on a pathway of discovery, with a multitude of new attractions to find in each area including a number of new species that will enhance the visitor experience, strengthen conservation and research project and improve educational opportunities.

-  **Butterfly House**
-  **Rainforest Floor**
-  **Creature Corner**
-  **Rainforest Canopy**
-  **Desert**
-  **Nocturnal**





## Redevelopment Plan



**Butterfly House**

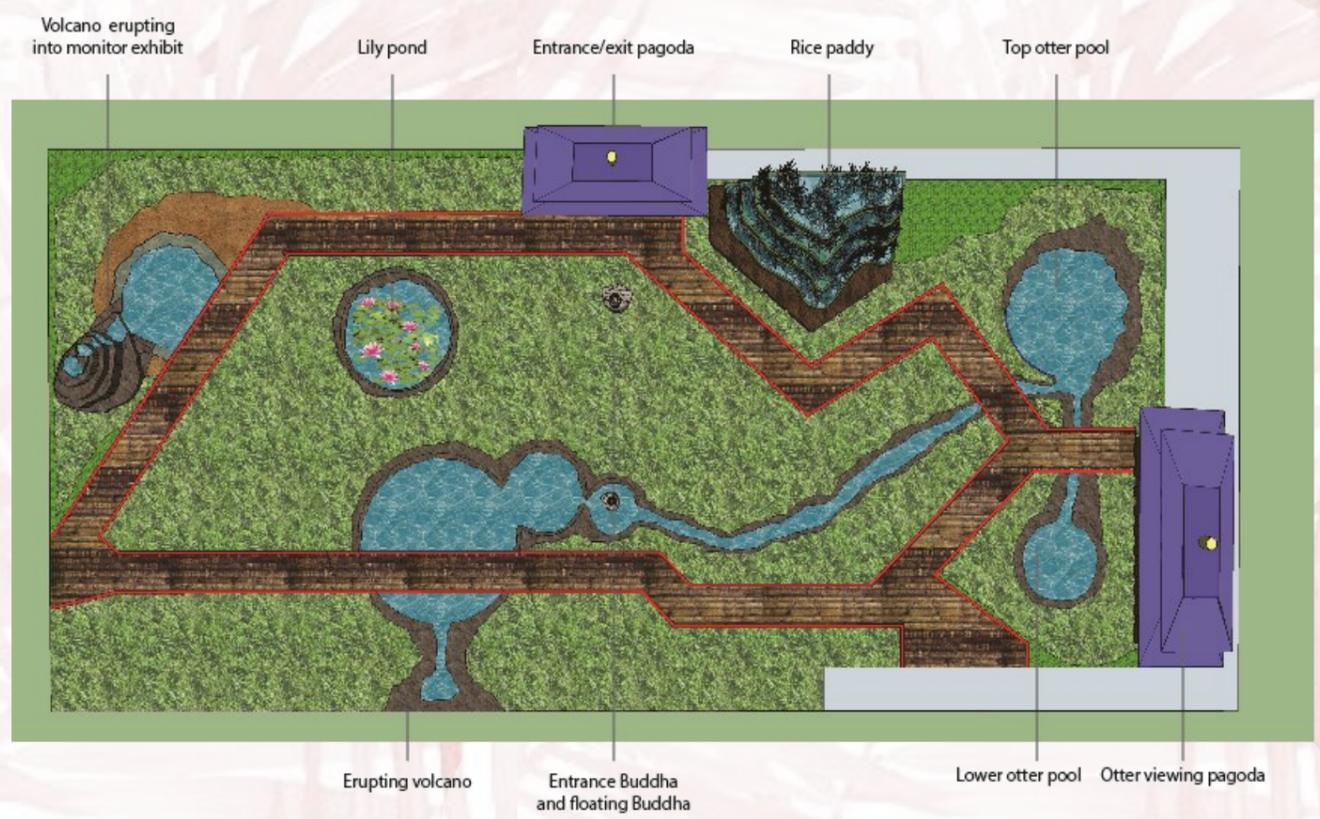
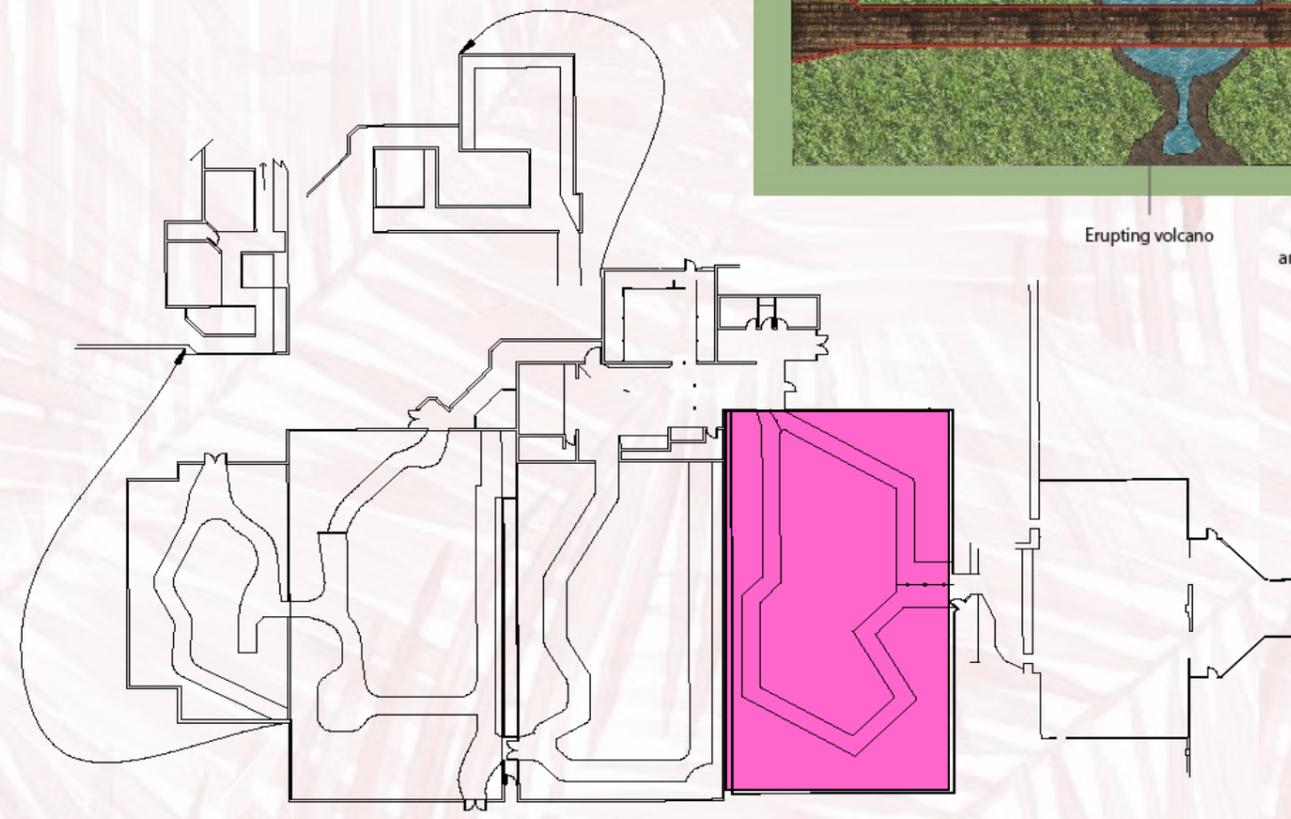
# Butterfly House

- The visitor will begin their Tropical World experience by entering this zone through a magnificent red and gold oriental-style house.
- Upon entering, visitors' view will be of a large ruined Buddha, accompanied by wind chime sound effects alongside the gentle splashing of running water.
- The other pools, chiefly in the centre of this zone will be re-themed to disguise the stonework. They will also be re-stocked with a range of large, south-east Asian fish species.

## →Theming & Management←

- Stonework surrounding the pools will be reworked to fit the oriental theme; rock types will be volcanic in origin.
- Unattractive wall features will be disguised by:
  - mural paintings of Buddhist religious iconography/oriental drawings
  - planting, based on a revised management plan for the maintenance of the house which allows plants to grow.

The Butterfly House will adopt an Oriental theme taking inspiration from the mixture of volcanic and human altered landscape of South East Asia. Free-flying butterflies will be retained as a key feature, alongside a new and improved pupae cabinet sited within the entrance area.



## →New Exhibits & Features←

### Japanese Medaka Rice Paddy Enclosure

A vivid green rice paddy teeming with darting, shining Japanese fish.

### Otter Enclosure

The otter pools will be dominated by a curved viewing window, allowing for underwater viewing of the otter's playful antics. An ornamental bridge will allow visitors to cross over the otter pools and access a pagoda-style seating area that will overlook the enclosure; allowing for otter observation from above.

### Monitor & Mixed Species Enclosure

The trickling waterfall which leads into one of the larger pools will be modified to fit in with the volcanic theme; at various times, water will be blown into the waterfall feature to create a sudden 'eruption' of water that will then crash into the pool.





# Redevelopment Plan

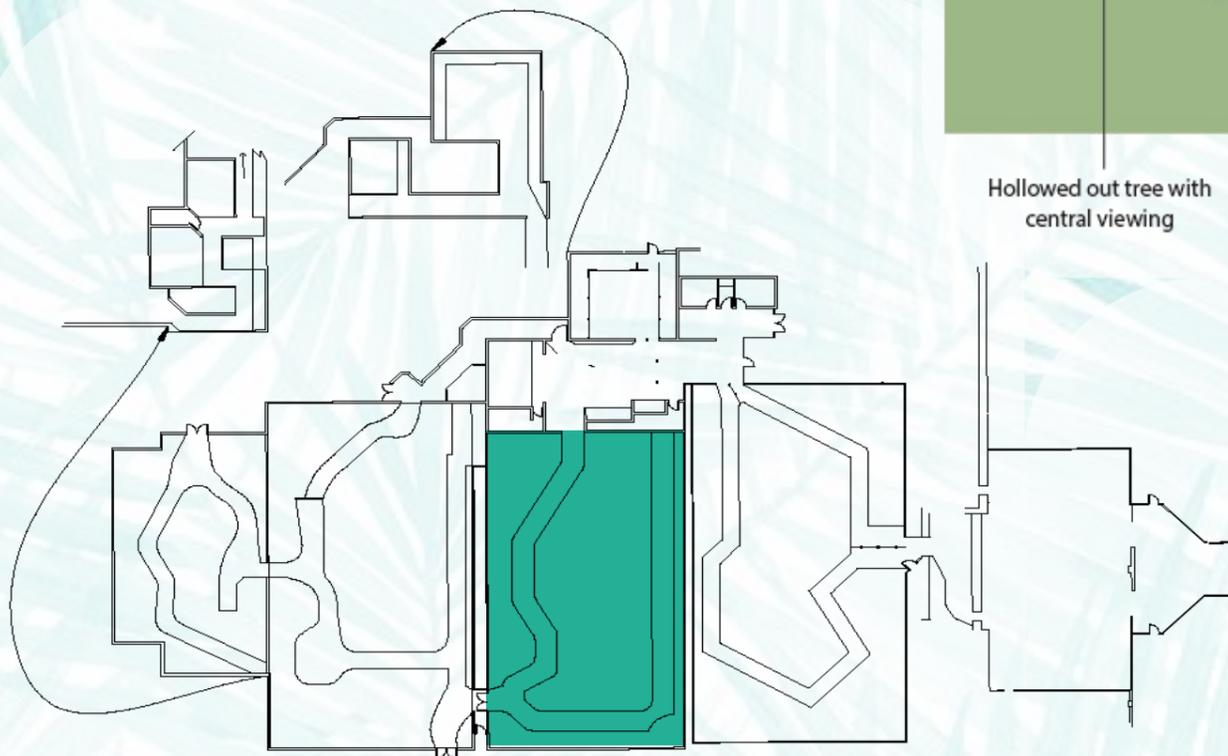


**Rainforest Floor**



# Rainforest Floor

The space within this house is currently effectively used, however there is ample opportunity to incorporate more features into this zone. Improving the central waterfall feature in this house is also a key priority.

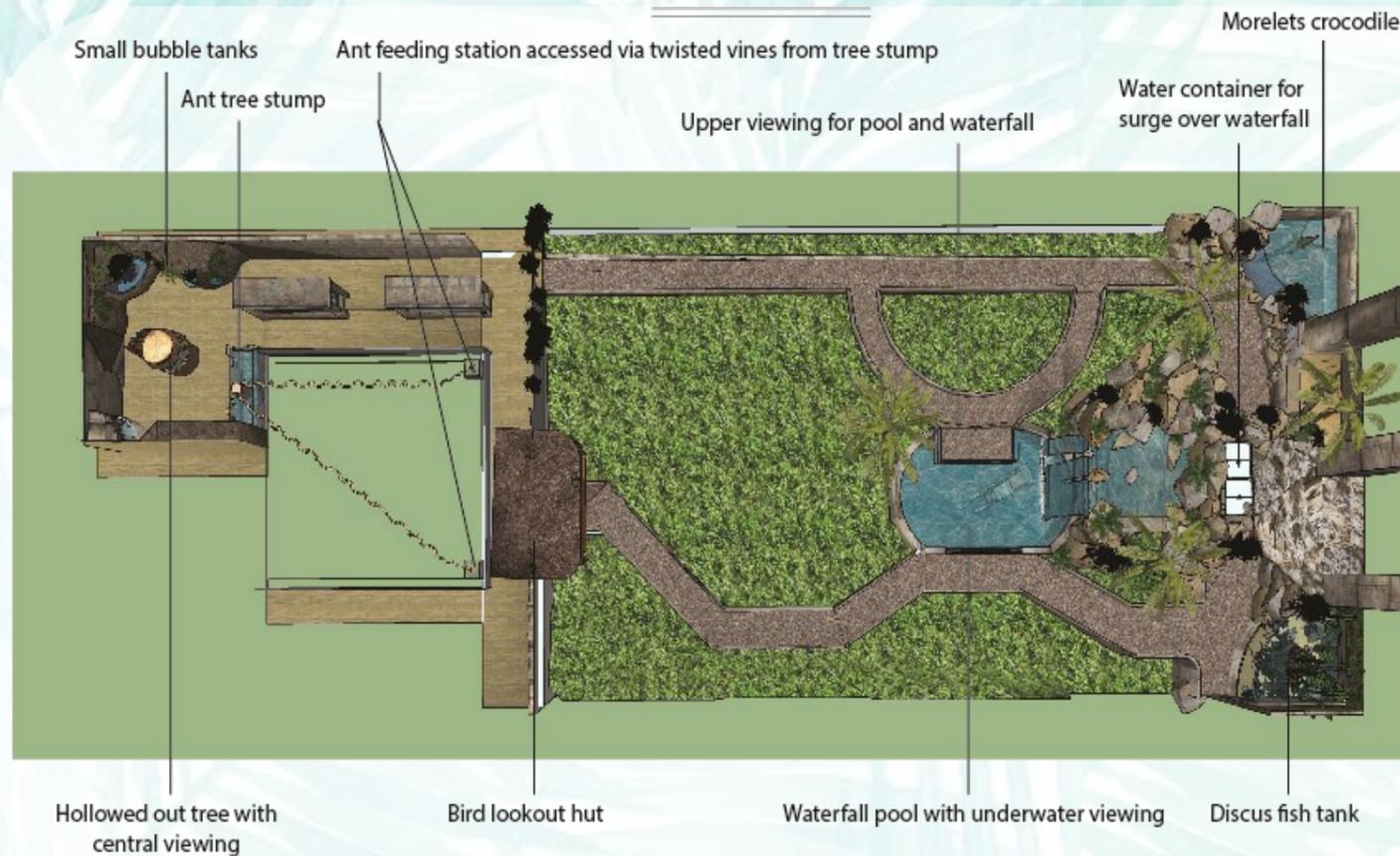


### The Waterfall Feature

The pool's water level will be raised & a large viewing window inserted to allow underwater viewing of the new tropical water fish species, Arapaima. Rising up from the depths of the pool will the ruins of an ancient Aztec city. The waterfall will crash into this pool with spontaneous surges of water.

### Alternative Path

Before leaving this house, an alternative path will be created within the planted area which leads to a balcony above the main waterfall plunge pool. This will offer an additional view from a higher perspective.



### →Theming and Management←

→ Unattractive wall features & unused borders will be disguised by:

- New exhibits
- planting, based on a revised management plan for the maintenance of the house which allows plants to grow.
- Artificial planting

### →New Exhibits & Features←

#### Forest floor snake dwelling

This enclosure will be designed to blend in with the rocky border adjoining the Aztec style entrance. It will replicate the shady, leafy habitat of a forest floor.

#### Golden Orb Spiders

These will hang from large webs spun between two trees. There is the option for these to be free-roaming or netted in.

#### Rocky cave feature with adjoining exhibit

The waterfall will create an echoing, dynamic sound throughout this area and theming will replicate a cave habitat with shafts of light, fake roots and cracks in the roof. The waterfall itself will become braided, to enable look-out points through the water. The back wall opposite this area will feature a new curved acrylic fronted tank containing discus fish.

#### Basking Pool & Rocks

Replacing the former terrapin corner exhibit, this exhibits water level will be raised to facilitate underwater viewing of dwarf caiman. A basking area will raise above this, along the back wall and provide a large, split-level exhibit.





## Redevelopment Plan



**Creature Corner**



## Creature Corner

The Upper Aztec Temple, formerly Creature Corner, will be entirely revamped to replicate and provide a continuation of the Aztec theme in the Aquarium below and the adjacent (Rainforest floor) Waterfall House. The false roof will be removed entirely, as will all of the existing exhibits, leaving huge scope for the area to house an exciting range of new, smaller vertebrate and invertebrate animals displayed in unusual ways.



### →Theming and Management←

- New improved exhibits in this house will make creature corner more interactive & visitor friendly. There is the potential for educational talks in this area.
- Aztec theming and rocky borders will replace the current basic plain roofing and 2D mural paintings currently there.



### →New Exhibits & Features←

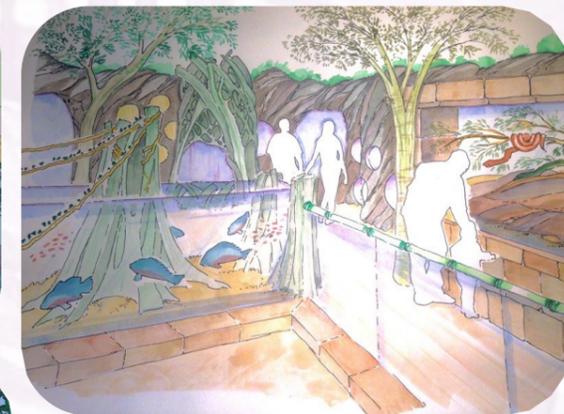
#### Central Feature: Hollowed Out Tree Trunk

Housing a series of invertebrate exhibits, all of a highly venomous nature. An opening in the trunk will allow smaller visitors to pop up in the centre of the enclosures to guarantee a close up view of the creepy-crawlies inside.



#### Leaf Cutter Ant Vines & Feeding Stations

Above the central atrium, will be vines leading to leaf cutter ant feeding stations at two corners of the upper level. Ants will parade along the vines, before returning to a central tree structure, surrounded by another exhibit. The ant colony will have access to their nesting boxes through the mouth of a gargoyle in the adjacent wall.



#### Central American fish Aquarium

Shall aquarium exhibit, surrounding the ant enclosure.

#### Temple Style Lookout feature

As you walk through the house, the current palisade wall to the left side of creature corner will be remodelled to reflect a rocky wall & lookout area over the houses below.

#### Rocky themed wall enclosures

Four convex bubble windows incorporated into the newly themed wall features will contain a large mixture of charismatic exhibits, including: vampire crabs, horned frog, poison dart frog & salamander species.

#### Free standing exhibits

- Vivarium of climbing tree frogs
  - Interpretation hub
- Arboreal snake species & Panther Chameleon



## Redevelopment Plan



Rainforest Canopy

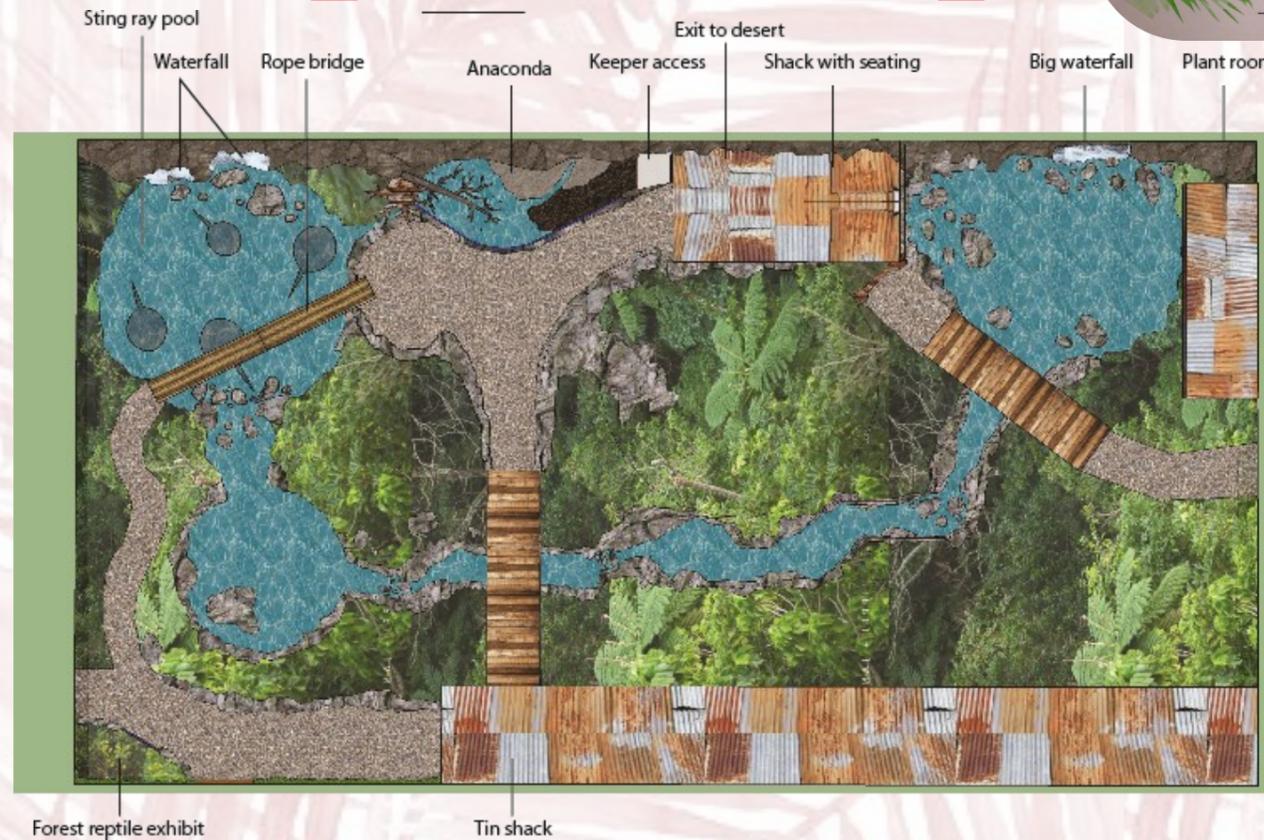


# Rainforest Canopy

## →Theming and Management←

- Installation of a state-of-the-art filtration system.
- The unattractive roofing in this house will be hidden. Upon entering the house, visitors will emerge under a covered walkway—covered by a tin roof with a simulated water audio, replicating a rainforest lookout shack.
- Planting will be better managed through a revised planting management plan which allows better growth and coverage of vegetation—helping to cover unattractive walls/borders.
- Currently this house acts as a visitor transition zone with very little features to draw attention. The proposed developments will improve the diversity and draw of this area of Tropical World.
- Problems with birds in this house escaping will be rectified through integrating the flapper barriers necessary into covered structures.

*This house will take on a jungle theme with a rainforest lookout, rope bridge, new waterfall feature and new tropical exhibits. In terms of marketing, this house will offer an immersive experience for the visitor which will be an event/feature in its own right.*



## →New Exhibits & Features←

### **Primary new feature: High Waterfall**

When viewing from the lookout area, the falls will appear to plunge out of view below floor level. The pool itself will house large fish species and Amazonian river turtles.

### **Red-footed tortoise enclosure**

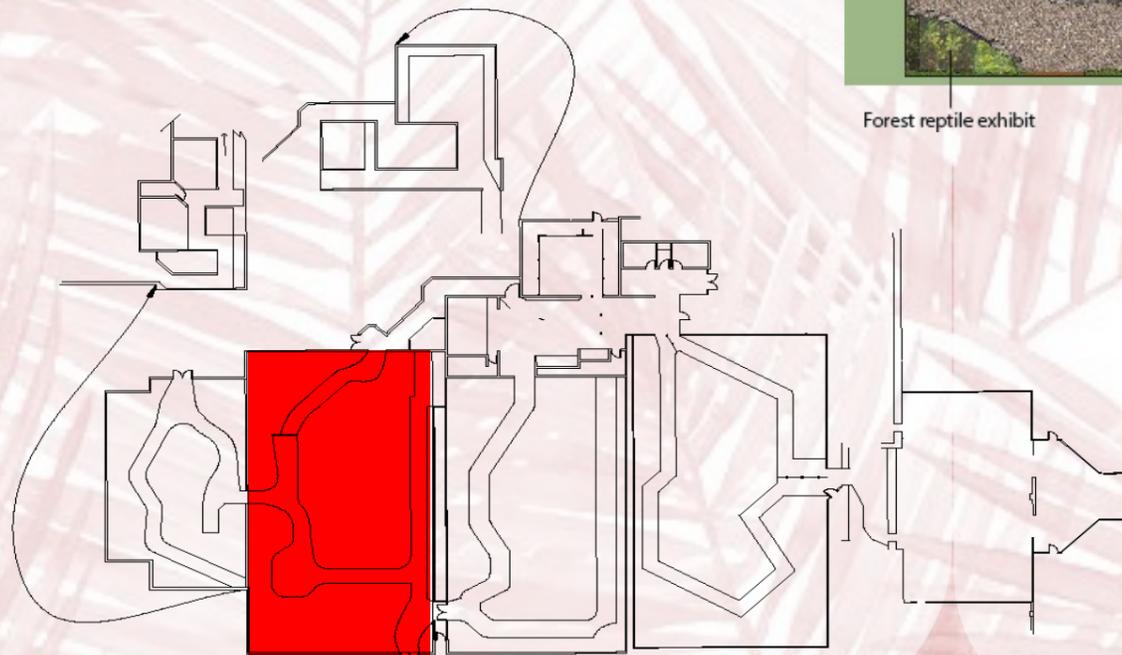
This enclosure will be in the upper area of this house, adjacent to the fire escape & fashioned into the planting in this area to provide distraction from unattractive walls/exits.

### **Stingray Exhibit**

The top pool in this house will host black and white spotted leopardi stingray which can be viewed from above via either a suspended rope bridge, or a lookout point from the adjacent path.

### **Anaconda Enclosure**

This enclosure will sit adjacent to the top pool & will contain it's own individual pool with full underwater viewing and a basking area. The pool in this exhibit will also house a small shoaling.





# Redevelopment Plan



Desert



# Desert

The desert house will be remodelled to feature new animals alongside its main feature, the meerkats. It will take on a Wild West theme, encompassing eroded, worn, yet colourful and interesting North American desert rocks.

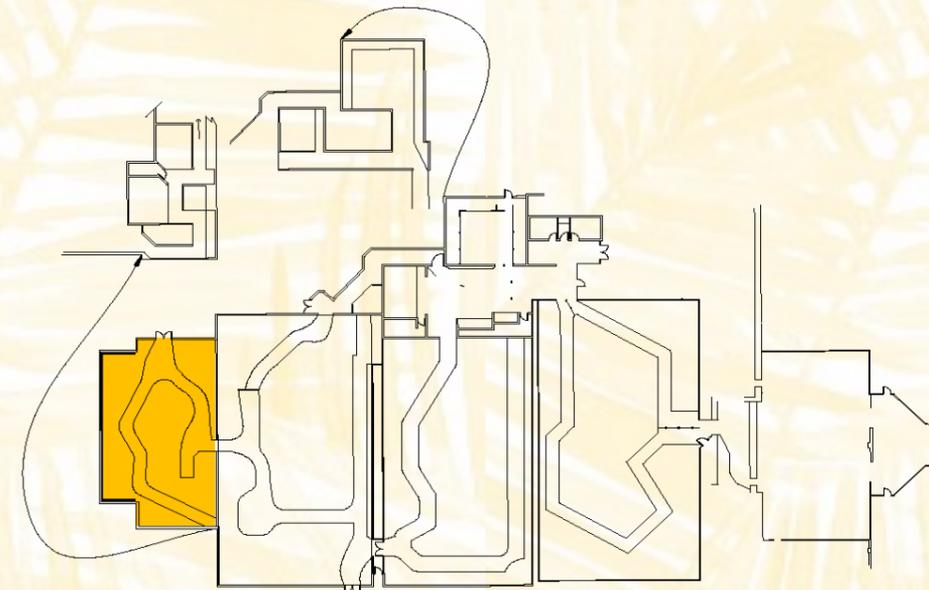
## →Theming & Management←

### →Meerkat Enclosure←

- Remodelled to fit better into the natural contours of the house. Rocky barriers will be added, with additional bubble viewing windows; flat glass windows and raised lookouts.
- Additional “visitors tunnel” where children can crawl into the enclosure and “pop-up” amongst the meerkats within an acrylic dome.
- New tiered seating as you enter the house will provide the opportunity for a designated “rest” area, or space for timed, “meet the meerkat/ keeper” experience & feedings.
- Internal enclosure will be more naturalistic; utilising termite mounds to hide food and also act as lookout points for the animals.
- At the far right of the enclosure, a broken down jeep/land rover will be set halfway into the exhibit, allowing children to crawl into the front seats and view the meerkats from the bonnet.



- Back wall of the house will be desert rock themed, with multiple hidden bird boxes.
- As the visitor transitions along the path in the Desert House, elements of mine workings will be developed within the theming, being particularly dominant towards the entrance to the nocturnal house.



- Mine headings will be suspended above the entrance to the nocturnal house to help disguise the existing services in this area.

### →New Exhibits & Features←

#### Basking Rocks

To incorporate apparently free-ranging tortoise and lizard species

#### Gila Monster Enclosure

This exhibit will fit into the contours of the banks of the path, with viewing areas into the nest box and basking spots.

#### Large male/group of female veiled chameleons

In an enclosure of bleached weathered desert wood branches.

#### North American desert spring canyon enclosure

Containing a colourful, active Pupfish which are critically endangered.





# Redevelopment Plan

 **Nocturnal**



# Nocturnal

As a transition zone from the Desert House to the Rainforest House, it is suggested that this area becomes a dark mine/cave feature. Currently, the defining characteristic of this area is darkness alone, but the remodelling of this zone will incorporate a dark atmosphere with temperature change, audio, and mine themed enclosures.

## →New Exhibits & Features←

### Low cave exhibit

The use of mirrors and lighting will create a partial infinity effect to this exhibit. It will encompass a shallow pool which forms below a shallow roof with Mexican cave fish. Cave crickets will also line the roof of this exhibit.

### Abandoned Mine Machinery Exhibit

Mixed small animals (armadillo or similar) will be able to climb on the machinery in this themed exhibit. This will also include a viewing window into the nesting box of the animals inside.

### Old Mine Mess Room

With upturned tables, chairs, and cupboards with food spilling out onto the floor, this exhibit provides the perfect theming for the rat enclosure.

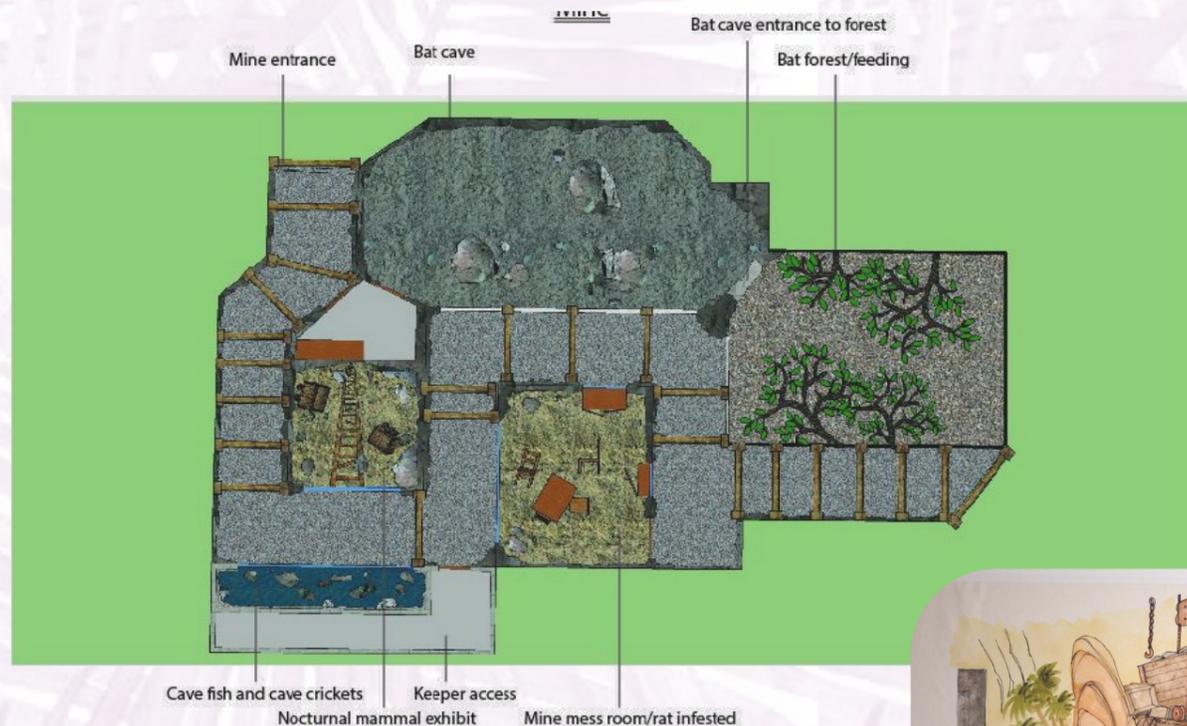
### Central Feature: Bat Enclosure

The enclosure will be remodelled as a mine gallery with continuing pit props & mineral deposits. There will also be hints that the mine is about to reach the surface with roots beginning to break through the roof and trailing down. The front glass from this enclosure will also be partially removed, being replaced with zoomesh to allow the sounds and smells from the enclosure to be observed by visitors.

A **bat feeding area** will be the final exhibit, with more earthy theming as the zone leaves into the rainforest house.

## →Theming & Management←

- Mine entrance workings will start to appear on the paths leading to and from the nocturnal zone.
- The zone will be remodeled to look disused and partially abandoned.
- Embedded within the walls of the mine will be various minerals, jewels and fossils which emerge from the wall and glint in partial lighting.



→ The block supporting pillars in this zone will be themed as pit props and the exhibits will form cave-like recesses branching off from the visitor path.

