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PEMB Ideal for Elephant Barn at Zoo

American Buildings pre-engineered metal buildings offer many advantages and benefits over other conventional buildings. Metal buildings provide cost effective and energy efficient solutions for a variety of types of structures, including agriculture, recreation, aviation, commercial, community, education, manufacturing, religious, warehouse, and many other buildings.



The Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kansas called upon Authorized Builder Martin K. Eby Construction to create an elephant barn for The Reed Family Elephants of the Zambezi River Valley Exhibit, the third largest elephant habitat in the country. At just more than five acres, the exhibit features two yards for visitors to see the elephants.

The south yard includes elephant access to the boat ride canal and a water cannon for zookeepers to give elephant-sized baths. The exhibit's pool is the world's largest elephant pool at 550,000 gallons and is also the first in the world to feature boat rides in the same water as the elephants. The north yard includes a waterfall feature and wading pool for the elephants. There are also two off-exhibit yards, an elephant barn, covered pavilion, concessions building and shaded amphitheater.





The elephant barn, an ABC pre-engineered metal building, totals 17,869 square feet and is one of the premier holding buildings for elephants in the country.

This state-of-the-art building, a clear span rigid frame building with a lean-to, holds up to nine elephants. It includes multiple elephant rooms with dirt flooring, guest visiting area, a keeper kitchen and keeper office areas. The facility also features an Elephant Restraint Device, which rotates the animals for medical examinations.

Natural lighting, large fans and an insulation system help control the light and temperature inside the barn. Tekla® Structures BIM software was used to detail the elephant barn, which featured “supermarket” columns, straight columns that offer the economies of tapered columns.

The roof on the main building is a Standing Seam 360 roof in Regal White, while the walls are clad with ABC’s Architectural III wall system. Other features include a critical 24’ elephant clear zone, 5’ overhangs with exposed overhang beams, translucent wall panels along both sides, and additional support for large ceiling fans mounted in each bay.

