

FIRST PLACE
PUBLIC BUILDINGS
\$5.1M – \$15M

PROJECT TEAM + STATS:

Location: Portland

Cost: \$7.5 million

Start date: August 2010

Completion date: December 2011

Architect:

Peck Smiley Ettlin Architects

General contractor:

Skanska USA Building Inc.



Oregon Zoo Veterinary Medical Center

SUBMITTED BY: SKANSKA USA BUILDING

The new veterinary medical center at the Oregon Zoo will let professionals provide state-of-the-art care for the animals. Building the high-tech facility was quite a challenge, however, because of a tight site featuring an unstable hillside accessible by just one narrow road.

“We identified this challenge early,” said Jackson Catrett, project manager for general contractor Skanska USA Building.

The lack of easy access to the site meant that deliveries had to be planned carefully and escorted down the 14-foot-wide, 400-foot-long road. Crews working on the project were trained to use open communication and be aware of the location’s complications.

When crews started digging on the site, they ran into another problem – underground utilities were not where existing drawings indicated. Skanska USA turned this challenge into an opportunity by working around the underground obstacles,

and at the end of the project the firm provided the zoo with a CAD file of new, accurate surveys of the area.

The building itself was constructed of 115 precast concrete walls. Many of the walls were cast on the building’s small site, but others needed to be delivered and carefully navigated along the narrow road. Despite some tight corners, Skanska USA crews and subcontractors erected the building in eight days with no injuries.

On the inside, the medical center is packed with equipment, including HVAC systems, animal cages, humidifiers and oxygen systems required for complex animal care. Fitting the equipment into the relatively small building required time and coordination. Skanska even assigned a full-time staff person to coordinate only the animal caging.

“It was a tough project, and I think we did really well,” Catrett said.

