

Case Study – Port Lympne Wild Animal Park

Designer and Contractor: The Lapa Company

Projects Completed; Thatched Umbrellas and Gazebos, Livingstone Lodge, Base Camp, Carnivore Corner, Pinewood Cafe and Elephant Lodge Restaurants

History...

The Lapa Company first started working with Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in 2007 with the installation of 8 Thatched Umbrellas on a terraced picnic area within the park. Since then we have developed a very strong working relationship and have completed many successful projects ranging from small roofing works up to the construction of large African themed restaurants.

Into the Future....

We are proud that our relationship with Port Lympne Wild Animal Park continues to go from strength to strength. We have always delivered our projects to the highest standard, on tight timescales and always to budget. We are currently working with Port Lympne on a number of exciting new projects in 2015.



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Livingstone Lodge – 2007



Brief...

To design and build an African structure to be the focal point of the new Livingstone Lodge luxury camping area and suitable as the central meeting and entertaining area for the guests.

Solution...

We created a bespoke African Lapa using a timber framed building and thatch. Covering 110m, the Lapa stands on poles over the natural escarpment. We used a Synthetic Thatch for the roof, rustic internal timbers for a genuine African ambiance and canvas side panels to allow for an open dining experience.

The Livingstone Lodge visitor experience has gone on to win multiple awards such as Best Tourism Experience at the Beautiful South Awards in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, and it has gained national recognition as England's Best Tourism Experience in 2010 and 2012 at the prestigious Visit England awards.



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Base Camp and Carnivore Corner – 2009/10



Brief...

To design and build two 70 seater restaurants in the park incorporating African theming and allowing for both indoor and outdoor dining experiences.

Solution...

Two uniquely themed buildings were constructed with full timber frames and thatched roofs. As a maintenance free product it was ideal to use Synthetic thatch again, alongside a rustic pole construction. Each building also included internal thatch theming and a veranda for outdoor dining. The Lapa Company completed all aspects of the build from foundations upwards and also created thatched umbrellas and bespoke thatched shelters to provide external covered seating areas finished in our Cape Reed Thatch Tiles.



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Elephant Lodge - 2012/13



Brief...

To create a new African themed restaurant with a 100 seat capacity incorporating lounge areas, Mongolian Barbecue kitchen, toilets and staff facilities.

Solution...

Working as the main contractor again, The Lapa Company designed and built the Elephant Lodge, a unique fully thatched restaurant with covered veranda using our imported African hardwood poles and Synthetic Thatch. With open air seating and disabled access this is our largest restaurant for Port Lympe Wild Animal Park to date. Their bespoke request to include a Mongolian Barbecue meant inclusion of appropriate ventilation and it was installed within a hand crafted wooden service plinth.

The official opening was conducted by the local Mayor in April 2013.



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Pinewood Café - 2014/15



Brief...

To create a new cafe with appropriate theming to be placed near the entranceway.

Solution...

The Lapa Company created a modern building suitable for the environment with part wooden walls and part canvas panels. The flexibility of the canvas panels will allow the best access options for visitors and their usage can be adjusted to suit the weather. The roof is completed with Cedar Shingle Roof Tiles.

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Products...



Our Synthetic Thatch product is ideal for zoos and theme parks. It provides a 20 year warranty, is fire retarded and is maintenance free.



Cape Reed Thatch Tiles are an alternative maintenance free product, with an expected life of 6-10 years, these thatch tiles provide a purposeful thatched look whilst allowing for the flexibility of design.



Imported African hardwood poles are a key part of our timber constructions. Grown for commercial purposes and in a variety of dimensions they are a naturally hardened product that are well suited to themed projects.

Services...

Concept

Design

African Theming

Handcrafted bespoke wooden pieces

Facilities planning

Build

General Contracting