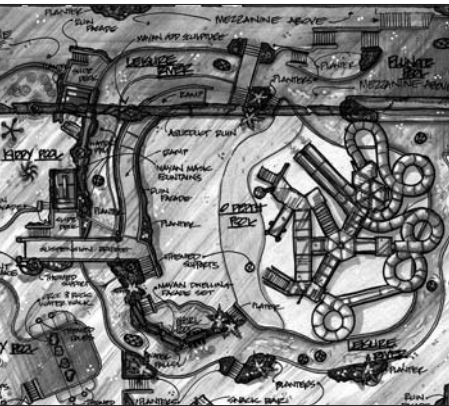


# LOS RIOS INDOOR WATERPARK WISCONSIN DELLS, WIS.

NATIONAL ROCK & SCULPTURE INC.



LOS RIOS INDOOR WATERPARK AT THE CHULA VISTA Theme Resort is a story of creation, a mating dance between technology and design. Not only was the space to be equipped with the latest in aquatic advancements, but with a themed environment to tantalize and seduce.

What resulted was a complex, multilevel design assignment, which ultimately resulted in a theme that gives guests an authentic sense of place. Designing the contents of a space before designing any of its structure may sound backward, but in the case of Los Rios, it was essential.

That's because the client insisted the park contain specific cutting-edge attractions while maintaining the best use of space. Located in the Wisconsin Dells, where winter temperatures can reach 60 degrees below zero, the park needed to be condensed and energy-efficient.

National Rock's theme design team was confronted with the challenge of creating an ancient tropical getaway in a state-of-the-art facility, using an ancient Mayan theme. Designers conducted extensive research of the Mayan era, obtaining articles, drawings and photographs of the period to achieve an authentic design. Humor, originality and a subtle sense of place were essential principles employed in the design of this art and entertainment venue.

As guests enter the waterpark from the underground hotel subconnector, they are met by a snake coiled around a support pole that rises 20 feet above the deck. Using all of the support poles as the basis to convert the room into a Mayan ruin, each was decorated with large boulders and ancient carvings. ▶





The Los Rios Indoor Waterpark uses ample artificial rock to create an authentic Mayan look. Details such as the coiling snake (lower left) on a support pole makes the facility a stand-out. Use of multiple levels maximizes indoor space.





The mezzanine, comprising the second level of the waterpark, features an aqueduct ruin, hand-carved out of glass-reinforced concrete. Supporting this massive structure is a 17-foot-tall Mayan god sculpture anchored to a peninsula in the leisure river. The aqueduct has been covered with artificial tree vines and tropical foliage, adding realism to the set.

elevation and displays exotic foliage for added realism. All around the park are numerous artificial palm trees, ranging in height from 8 to 14 feet.

Near the slide tower at the east end of the waterpark, a concrete dragon gate was constructed as if carved out of a huge rock face and is bordered on either side by 12-foot-tall

## NUTS & BOLTS

- 20-foot snake sculpture
- 17-foot Mayan god sculpture
- 4 themed waterfeatures
- More than 1,600 artificial tropical plants and trees
- 18-foot ancient aqueduct replica
- More than 100,000 square feet of murals
- Mayan dwelling ruin replica
- Aquatic room: 80,000 square feet
- Wave pool and generator
- Coaster slide
- 3 racer slides
- 400-foot leisure river
- 60-foot slide tower
- 1.5 miles of slides

## THROUGHOUT THE PARK, MURALS ARE INCORPORATED INTO THE EXTERIOR WALLS, GIVING A FEELING OF WARMTH AND VASTNESS

Connecting the mezzanine to the slide tower level is a walkway 18 feet above the first level. This walkway is cloaked in a façade, which represents a rickety suspension bridge of bamboo, vines and distressed boards. The mezzanine background is finished by more than 6,000 square feet of mural depicting a tropical landscape. Throughout the park, murals are incorporated into exterior walls, giving a feeling of warmth and vastness, which camouflages the fixed square footage.

The activity pool is boarded on one side by carved rock work reaching a 12-foot

guard dragons. In keeping with a versatile design, the area will serve as a doorway into future park expansion. The dragon gate is draped with tropical vines and foliage, complementing the opposite corner, where the plunge pool wall is themed with murals and a life-size jaguar resting among jungle trees.

Typically, waterparks use plunge pools at ride termination, but with the space's multilevel design, the mezzanine was used to create safe and high-capacity rides through the utilization of run-outs. This required the construction of several bridges and ►

handicap-accessible ramps, walk-through rivers and water walks, thereby allowing more attractions in less square footage.

Traffic patterns are extremely important within any entertainment venue. Designers were cognitive of queue lines, wait times and patrons' perceived entertainment dollar value. An added challenge was maintaining a 6-foot walk path on the deck.

The theming creates ways to conceal attractions, which serve as people movers, such as the leisure river. Passageways are lined with planters, lush flowers, bushes, several large colorful masks, carved ruins, fountains and waterways flowing into the river.

To access the large play feature located in the center of the waterpark, visitors must first cross one of the large bridges spanning the leisure river. Though engineered to be grounded to the main deck, it simulates an old suspension bridge similar to those in the Mayan culture. The ramp incorporated into



**This facility is big on fun, offering lots of water activities for kids. Yet the carefully thought-out resort stays true to its theme, and even the steppingstones fit the Mayan decor.**

the bridge construction not only corresponds with ADA guidelines, but also accommodates strollers and service carts. The bridge also leads to a large whirlpool area, where the hot tub has been partially enclosed with a ruin that is reminiscent of an ancient Mayan dwelling. ■

**A S S O C I A T E D   F I R M S**

**ARCHITECT:** Architectural Design Consultants Inc.; Lake Delton, Wis.

**AQUATICS ENGINEER:** Water Technologies Inc.; Beaver Dam, Wis.

**POOL CONTRACTOR:** Neuman Group; Beaver Dam, Wis.

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** Horizon Construction Group; Verona, Wis.

**SLIDES AND SLIDE TOWERS:** WhiteWater West Industries; Richmond, B.C., Canada