



news release

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WORLD'S LARGEST GLAZED DOME OPENS AT OMAHA'S HENRY DOORLY ZOO

Temcor Crystogon Encompasses an Entire Acre

Gardena, CA, May 6, 2002 – A 230' diameter Temcor Crystogon®, the world's largest spherical glazed structure, is now open to the public at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska. The clear-span Crystogon covers the world's largest indoor desert exhibit - an entire acre of land, providing 82,000 square feet of Desert Dome exhibit on two levels. Temcor is the world's largest Aluminum Dome builder.

A Temcor Crystogon consists of a patented Temcor Aluminum Dome structural frame which can be covered with acrylic or glass triangulated panels. The Desert Dome is glazed with 1,760 tinted acrylic panels. The panels are tinted in three shades with the darkest at the top, then lighter and finally clear near the bottom for heat and light control.

The upper floor of the dome features the desert environments of western Africa, central Australia and the southwestern United States. The lower floor features the world's largest exhibit of nocturnal animals, and the environment of a Louisiana swamp.

The dome has a 105' rise to accommodate the two exhibit levels. "This dome was engineered to support an incredible amount of weight," said Bob Dagenais, marketing manager, architectural products for Temcor. "As a testament to the aluminum dome's inherent strength, the 200,000-pound frame supports a whopping 350,000 pounds, including 200,000 pounds for the acrylic panels. A penthouse 37' in diameter and 15.5' high with a foot-thick concrete floor, and complex temperature and air-control equipment add another 150,000 pounds. "This strength, combined with a Temcor Dome's design flexibility, means that almost any equipment can be accommodated, continued Dagenais.

The sheer size of the dome dictated the use of Temcor's unique and efficient Center Tower Erection method. Temcor's construction process consists of a dome being erected from the center outward to the perimeter using an erection tower. Workers assemble the frame on the ground, lifting the frame up as each strut ring is completed. On average, a Temcor Aluminum Dome is assembled using one-third the manhours required for a conventional construction. A project this size is typically erected in about four months with an average crew of just 10 workers.

Other Temcor Crystogons are in service at the Topeka Zoo, EPCOT Center, the Des Moines Botanical Center and the Reynolds Forest Aviary at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro. It was the Temcor Crystogon at Des Moines that led the architect, Stanley/Howe of Omaha, to Temcor.

Temcor has been building Aluminum Domes and other structures for nearly 40 years and has more than 6,000 installations throughout the world in industries as varied as water and wastewater treatment, petroleum and scientific research. Temcor domes and roof systems for architectural applications are in place as sports arenas, cruise terminals, planetariums, churches, and more.

Temcor is ISO:9001 Certified.

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