

EL PASO ZOO CAT ADOPTION CENTER

Exterior Enclosure
El Paso, Texas, USA

SJD-2



At the El Paso Zoo's Cat Adoption Center, MNK Architects was scoped with creating a fun, colorful, and family-friendly environment where the potential adoptees and cats could have one-on-one encounters. In the renovation of the Cat Adoption Center (previously known as The Asia Exhibit), MNK relied heavily on Banker Wire's SJD-2 wire mesh pattern to create a key architectural installation that was both functional and decorative, helping realize the overall design scheme and purpose of the Center.

Asian motifs underscore the architecture and design of the Cat Adoption Center—a structure that was originally built in the early 1990s. Inspired by the building's original design, MNK Architects' renovation built on this existing concept, further emphasizing the unique design details that nod to Asia. The exterior wire mesh divider screen is one such installation, created with Banker Wire's SJD-2—a pattern featuring 18 wires over a span of just 15 inches, with a large open area that helps connect the interior with the exterior.

"We wanted a material that provided safety and security, while allowing visibility to the cats," says Jennifer Countryman, MNK Architect, and Elisa Martinez, MNK Intern Interior Designer. "Banker Wire's mesh is elegant, and catches one's attention in a subdued way—accentuating and elevating the cats on display, and the unique Asian architecture that they sit within."

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