HUMANE ARCHITECTURE TO BEFRIEND THE ANIMALS WE LIVE WITH

[ANIMAL SHELTER IN BEAUTIFUL ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA]
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ABSTRACT

This thesis is a study of architecture on how to improve the life of homeless animals through strengthening the relationship between us, humans and the animals we live among.

There are millions of shelter animals being killed every year which is both dreadful and expensive. This number can be decreased greatly if people acted more responsibly towards the creatures they have domesticated. It is true that most people enjoy taking care of animals, they usually feel a strong emotional connection with them, specially those who share their homes with their pets. The problem is that many find the animal shelters a depressing place filled with sick unwanted animals.

How can we, design professionals, encourage people to interact more with animal shelters? How can the design affect both physical and emotional health of these animals? Can architecture raise awareness about the creatures in our urban civilization?

This project explores a few design approaches that can teach people about shelters and urban animals and how physically different we are from them. The building is also a study of an animal shelter as a system that can improve their day-to-day life to become healthier and happier. It is proposed that these architectural changes would aid the adoption rate as well as creating a happier pet and owner.

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GENERAL ABSTRACT

Each year millions of adoptable animals are killed in shelters simply because people are not responsible enough to take action. People have always loved animals and have domesticated them from thousands of years ago. This makes us responsible for their lives and their well being.

The general understanding is that animal shelters are very sad depressing places filling with sick unwanted animals. This keeps people away from animal shelters. People usually show affection to animals when they are interacting with them. How can the housing for these unwanted animals be a desirable place where people want to visit? How can it be the place where our physical differences are celebrated so we learn about their differently needs?

This project explores different ways to encourage interaction between humans and animals as well as to create a wholesome place for the animals to live. Through the beautiful experience of the shelter these design approaches would motivate people to adopt healthy and happy animals.

“You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed” (Saint-Exupéry 60).
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To my parents,
I could have never done this without your support. Thank you for teaching me how to be kind and respectful to all species!

To my committee members and faculty at the WAAC, thank you:

Paul, for your thoughtfulness and patience, for encouraging me to dream again and for teaching me to grow my imagination.

Marcia, for your kindness and teaching me about embodiment and showing me how important the details are.

Susan, for your greater view and teaching me how important each building is, in a bigger picture of the city.

And to my amazing friends, everyone at WAAC and all our furry friends!
KEY WORDS
through researching the etymology connected to animal ownership and domestication, the relationship between people and animals over time becomes clear. People have become closer and felt more affection for cats and dogs. For example, the word “pet” originally comes from “child,” subject to the highest level of affection and love from humans.

**sterlet** (n.)
1836. A small, thin-skinned freshwater fish, often served as a food. From Old Russian, related to Old Church Slavonic sterlet, from the verb sterlet’ “to flounder” (see sterlet). Compare sterlet, sturgeon.

**shelter** (n.)
1903. An act or place of protection, shelter. From Old French, related to Old Church Slavonic kryt’i “to cover” (see kryt’i-). Compare kryt’i, kryt’i-t’i.

**pet** (n.)
1551, a parallel variant of human (adj.), with a form and stress that perhaps suggest a stronger association with Latin humanus than with Old French humain. Human and humane were used interchangeably in the senses “pertaining to a human being” and “having qualities fitting human beings” (c. 1500). The latter at first meant “courteous, friendly, civil, obliging,” then “marked by tenderness, compassion, and a disposition to kindly treat others” (c. 1600). By early 18c. the words had differentiated in spelling and accent and humane took the “kind” sense. Compare germane, urbane. Meaning “inflating less pain than something else” is from 1904. Inhuman is its natural opposite. The Royal Humane Society (founded 1774) was originally to rescue drowning persons; such societies had turned to animal care by late 19c.

**sanctuary** (n.)
early 14c. Building set apart for holy works. From Anglo-French sanctuarie, Old French sanctuaire, holiness, sanctuary. From Latin sanctus “sacred, holy,” also “a sacred or holy room.” From Latin sanctus “sacred” (see sanct-).

**human** (adj.)
med. b. A parallel variant of human (adj.) with a form and stress that perhaps suggest a stronger association with Latin humanus than with Old French humain. Human and humane were used interchangeably in the senses “pertaining to a human being” and “having qualities fitting human beings” (c. 1500). The latter at first meant “courteous, friendly, civil, obliging,” then “marked by tenderness, compassion, and a disposition to kindly treat others” (c. 1600). By early 18c. the words had differentiated in spelling and accent and humane took the “kind” sense.

**sanctity** (n.)
1903. A high degree of holiness or divinity. From Old Church Slavonic svatost “sacred,” from svat- “holy” (see svat-). Compare svatost, svatost “sacred.”

**animal** (n.)
early 4c. But rare before c. 1400, and not in KJV, c. 1475. From Old French, related to Latin animal (see -animal). Meaning “living being, being which breathes,” neuter of animals, “dwelling, living, of air.” From Latin animalis, a stem of animalis “animal, sentient, able to feel,” from Latin anima “soul, a current of air” (see anima, and compare dead). Drove out the older lexical (noun) (see Latin anima); from Latin animalis, “of or having to do with beasts of burden,” also, as a noun, “coffin doctor,” from Latin animalium “beast of burden,” or part of similar Latin animalium, “all beasts of burden.”

**veterinarian** (n.)
animal doctor, 1494, from Latin veterinarius, “of or having to do with beasts of burden,” also, as a noun, “coffin doctor,” from Latin animalium “beast of burden,” or part of similar Latin animalium, “all beasts of burden.”
As an Iranian who has lived her life in one of the busiest cities of Iran (Karaj), I was always in touch with street animals, specially cats. Iran as a country is famous for its beautiful cats. Sadly, at the present most of these animals don’t have a very good life on the streets. In the older days when there were less vehicles on the streets and houses were more open, inviting and had many hiding places, city animals had great lives. These days the streets are not safe for them to live and they belong to safer places.

Growing up I spent my time with many cats and learned a lot from them. Watching them play and taking care of their babies taught me how much feelings they have and how much they need us to survive.

Many people have not had this exposure to animals and usually that is one of the main reasons that they do not feel affection towards them.

During the process of my thesis I kept thinking about different ways that would draw people to the building I was imagining, so that there would be more interaction with these animals. Challenge was to...
mid 15c., a parallel variant of human (adj.), with a form and stress that perhaps suggest a stronger association with Latin humanus than with Old French humain. Human and humane were used interchangeably in the senses “pertaining to a human being” and “having qualities fitting human beings” (c. 1500). The latter at first meant “courteous, friendly, civil, obliging,” then “marked by tenderness, compassion, and a disposition to kindly treat others” (c. 1600). By early 18c. the words had differentiated in spelling and accent and humane took the “kind” sense.

Compare germane, urbane. Meaning “inflicting less pain than something else” is from 1904. Inhuman is its natural opposite. The Royal Humane Society (founded 1774) was originally to rescue drowning persons; such societies had turned to animal care by late 19c.

A number of animal welfare organisations are campaigning to achieve a Universal Declaration on Animal Welfare (UDAW) at the United Nations. In principle, the Universal Declaration would call on the United Nations to recognise animals as sentient beings, capable of experiencing pain and suffering, and to recognise that animal welfare is of basic importance as part of the social development of nations worldwide. The campaign to achieve the UDAW is being co-ordinated by World Animal Protection, with a core working group including Compassion In World Farming, the RSPCA, and the Humane Society International (the international branch of HSUS).

HISTORY OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Brief timeline of animal welfare shows how close they were to us in ancient times and it was not until the 19th century that some people stepped up for their welfare and talked about how they also feel pain and deserve to be treated humanely.

Nestlé’s Art: represented a vehicle of safety in the midst of danger.

Indian Valley Civilization: artisans were believed to return in animal form; therefore animals must be treated with respect.

Christianity: Many Christian philosophers and socio-political figures have stated that individuals should follow the example of Jesus and treat animals in a way that expresses both compassion as well as demonstrates the respectful stewardship of humanity over the environment.

Daily vigilance which turned the impetus for ceasing animal welfare issues from being a development of animal welfare science into the National Parliament (Humane Welfare) “An Act against Poisoning the Toads, and the金价特色的Cruelty.” Off the Bubble Creations: Liberty 92 and 85 in the nexthands basis of “benefits of 8%” (fig. 10) (behavior).

Free Freddie: Significant progress in animal welfare did not take place until the 20th century. In 1925, the US government commissioned on investigation-led by Professor Homer Rodeheaver into the welfare of heavy-transported animals, part of the committee concerned with animal health. Its report led to a law setting up the Farm Animal Welfare Advisory Committee in 1925, which became the Farm Animal Welfare Council in 1979. The committee’s first guidelines recommended that animals require the freedoms to stand up, lie down, turn around, groom themselves, and eat their food. The guidelines have since been expanded upon to become known as the Five Freedoms, 1965 (fig. 24).

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Women’s SPCA of Pennsylvania had established the first official United States animal shelter.

In India, all signs and worships of God, animals are worthy of great respect. Interaction with them is addressed in the Hasid— the singing of the Prophet Muhammad in which Muhammad compares acts of cruelty toward animals with cruel acts toward humans.

Animals: truss full of hog backs from animals down to insects and tiny whales with great respect for aspects of God, having the same of their own, going through the same process of births and deaths as human beings.
Since the early humans, animals in various ways have inspired Art and Architecture. Whether symbolic or literal, all around the world traces of animal influences can be found in literature, painting, architecture, etc. From cave paintings by primitive humans to complicated biomimicry building designs, one cannot ignore their importance in art history. The scientific impact happens when art and architecture ideas come into contact with ideas of biological life. Symbolic presence can be found through the use of social or physical characteristics of an animal.

Either approach is usually how they are mentioned in different architectural treatises. Rarely can be found a theory on architecture serving animals, especially in older books. Many theoreticians view all living creatures as animals. So i as an animal will also touch on the subject of architecture also for non-human animals in this part.

“Animals, who exhibit life in highly concentrated and diverse forms, have the power to completely alter our way of thinking about ourselves, both the form of ourselves and the form we make, live in, and respond to” (Catherine Ingraham 15). This direct use of animals in treatises can be even found in the oldest treatise existing today. "If one wishes a more accurate understanding of all this, he need only consider and observe the natures of birds, fishes, and land animals, and he will thus come to reflect upon distinctions of temperament. One form of mixture is proper to birds, another to fishes, and a far different form to land animals” (Vitruvius 19). This peaks during the Renaissance period and continues to influence artists until today.

“This work was strictly voluntary, but any animal who absented himself from it would have his rations reduced by half” (George Orwell 77). As mentioned before symbolic presence of animals in art and architecture dates back to thousands of years ago but the most unique manifestation is where personification happens and buildings, statues and ornaments take animal like characteristics or animals become human like. In Monster in the Machine, Zakya Hanafi talks about books on metamorphosis, attributed to John Trithemius: “In metamorphosis VI one learns how to transform various human faces into monstrous animals” by use of a darkened room an series of mirrors with different angles. Books and articles on this matter are vast so in this paper I will try to focus more on the examples, which take physical presence or those that have to do with architecture yea.

ANIMALS FOR ARCHITECTURE

These drawings were done as a recto & verso frontispiece for a paper with the title “The Beast in Architecture: Animals as Inspiration for Architects”. Writing this paper let me expand my knowledge on where animals stand in architecture and the design world.
Today there are few intellectuals who study the science of animal welfare and consider art and architecture for them in their service. Places like animal shelters are the best examples for this. Also in animal farms there has been huge progress and continues to be. Temple Grandin, an animal scientist, argues that slaughterhouses should at least provide a calming space for animals before they are being killed. She designed curved corrals that are thought to have stress reducing effects on cows that are going to be slaughtered.

It is said that in the drawing of Vitruvian Man, it has been attempted to link the man to the nature. The carefully studied proportions of the perfect man and his relation to microcosm and macrocosm are all evidence of importance and humans and how there are thought to be the center of universe. Although human beings have done the greatest damages during the short time of their existence, I also believe that our species have also done amazing changes during this time. But the important point is that we should not forget that to some level we are responsible for the lives of other creatures with all the differences we have and are making in the world and in everyone’s lives.

In the book “Animal Farm” George Orwell uses animals as human metaphors to explain the unjust situation in human world. One of the most famous sentences in the book is: “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others”. Although the book is about human beings and our societies, I think that we can expand this to all living beings and let ourselves think more responsibly about all living beings.
As mentioned before there are not many examples in architecture where the main design has revolved around needs of animals. One might think places such as zoos or stables are good precedents for this type of project but the reality is that such programs are mainly for humans. For example zoo is a place where animals are on display for humans. Living conditions in a zoo cage is usually not even close to what animals need. There are many problems from the size of the cages to the climate, etc.

South Los Angeles Animal Care Center & Community Center / RA-DA

“This is a project that challenges all preconceptions of the animal shelter as a building type. It creates a welcoming environment with the visitor in mind and engages the community in a positive and exciting way. These are the ultimate goals of the building, and in achieving these, we help our client achieve their goal to reduce euthanasia and increase adoptions” (Archdaily).

The kennels are oriented in a manner that minimizes the number of kennels facing each other in an effort to mitigate noise levels and discourage contagious barking. Instead, all kennels are facing greenery clad walls or landscaped mini-parks that provide welcomed breaks in the kennels.

Thoughts

In this project there is great separation between cats and dogs. It’s very thoughtful to have dog kennels not facing each other where there is not enough space between rows of kennels. It’s also very nice for the dogs to face nature. The problem is that the dogs don’t have direct access to the interiors which is needed at least in extreme weather conditions. Cats are too isolated and just a few cages have view to the exterior.
Animal Refuge Centre / Arons en Gelauff

"From the architect: The two Amsterdam animal refuges in Amsterdam have been amalgamated - the new-built is the largest pound in the Netherlands. The plot is in the city fringe, an apparently impossible wedge of cake" (Archdaily).

The building faces inwards in order to reduce excessive noise levels (barking!) for the neighbors. In the high part of the building, the cat accommodation is located above the dog kennels as an extra sound buffer for the outside world.

Thoughts

The idea of having a central courtyard which also acts as a playground for the animals is great. It also eases the circulation for service and adoption tours. Each dog and cat room has a view to outside which is amazing.

There is a major problem in the section which is placement of cat rooms above dogs to create a noise buffer. This might reduce the noise going out but creates distress for the cats!

Animal Wellness Center / RA-DA

"There are two factors that drive the design of this store: both are related to the experience of the dog and their owner as they move through the space" (Ra-Da.com).

"The shelf forms in the space are created by mapping out the movement of people as they enter and move through the store. The casework and display counters create a second world designed for the dogs below three feet. Walls move in and out to create passageways and resting points" (Ra-Da.com).

Thoughts

Amazing design ideas about the pet eye level and their movement while visiting the store.

"Ramps are the best when it comes to taking animals to higher levels. This is a great example of where they did not have enough space for a ramp and they made the stairs deeper so it would be easier for the dogs to climb."

Staircase for Dogs / 07BEACH
An animal shelter is the physical nucleus of a community animal care and control program, and should be constructed, maintained and operated so that it is attractive and convenient to the community. Above all, an animal shelter must be a place of security and comfort for the animals sheltered there. Therefore, the most important rooms in the program are first, the housing and after that any room that services the animals directly such as the medical rooms.

There are 3 types of housing: isolation (first room after intake to treat any illnesses and such), quarantine (for animals with infectious diseases or major medical conditions), and lastly the long term stay housing which consists of two types, the single rooms and the group rooms. Depending on the conditions of the mother the nursery room can happen either in isolation or the long term rooms.

In addition to the required rooms for animals and rooms servicing them, there is an education room and a cat cafe included, that support their wellbeing by teaching their visitors and inviting them to interact. These rooms also act as emergency disaster rooms in extreme situations where there is a lot of intake.

Death is sad fact that cannot be ignored in a place like this with so many living beings. Initially I had included an euthanasia room because although this is a program for a no-kill shelter but in some situations euthanasia is unavoidable. But later I removed the room as a separate program because such procedures can take place in one of the medical rooms. Later in the process I added a crematorium with a cemetery next to it. The cemetery and the crematorium is for the people who are dealing with the death of their pet.
FACTS AND STATISTICS

Currently no government institution or animal organization is responsible for tabulating national statistics for the animal protection movement. These are national estimates according to ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASP-CA) was the first humane society to be established in North America and is, today, one of the largest in the world.)

Facts about U.S. Animal Shelters in year 2017:

"Approximately 6.5 million companion animals enter U.S. animal shelters nationwide every year. Of those, approximately 3.3 million are dogs and 3.2 million are cats. We estimate that the number of dogs and cats entering U.S. shelters annually has declined from approximately 7.2 million in 2011. The biggest decline was in dogs (from 3.9 million to 3.3 million).

Each year, approximately 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized ($70,000 dogs and $80,000 cats). The number of dogs and cats euthanized in U.S. shelters annually has declined from approximately 3.6 million in 2011. This decline can be partially explained by an increase in the percentage of animals adopted and an increase in the number of stray animals successfully returned to their owners. Approximately 3.2 million shelter animals are adopted each year (1.4 million dogs and 1.6 million cats).

About 710,000 animals who enter shelters as strays are returned to their owners. Of those, 620,000 are dogs and only 90,000 are cats."

Facts about Pet Ownership in the U.S.:

"It's estimated that 78 million dogs and 85.8 million cats are owned in the United States. Approximately 44% of all households in the United States have a dog, and 35% have a cat. (Source: American Pet Products Association 2015-2016 (APPA))

Approximately 40% of dog owners and 46% of cat owners learned about their pet through word of mouth. (Source: APPA)

According to the APPA, these are the most common sources from which primary methods cats and dogs are obtained as pets: (Note: this information was based on a multiple response question, which results in the total % exceeding 100% individually for cats and dogs. In addition, the "other" category includes all source categories that were reported by <10% of both dog and cat owners):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species and Breeds</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pitbull</td>
<td>German Shepherd</td>
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<td>Boxer</td>
<td>Jack Russel Terrier</td>
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<td>Labrador</td>
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<td>Chihuahua</td>
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APPA reports that 34% of dogs are purchased from breeders, while 22% of dogs and 31% of cats are obtained from an animal shelter or humane society.

Around 27% of cats are acquired as strays, down from 33% in 2012. (Source: APPA)

According to the ASPCA’s National Rehoming Survey, pet problems are the most common reason that owners rehome their pet, accounting for 47% of rehomed dogs and 42% of rehomed cats. Pet problems were defined as problematic behaviors, aggressive behaviors, grew larger than expected, or health problems owner couldn’t handle."

99% of cats in shelters are mixed breeds.

73% of dogs in shelters are not purebred. The rest (9%) are mostly PItbull, German Shepherd, Dachshund, Boxer, Jack Russel Terrier, Beagle, Labrador, Rottweiler, Border Collie and Chihuahua (Aspca.com).

Species and Breeds

Around 95-98% of shelter animals are cats and dogs. Rabbits, Guinea Pigs and hamsters are next. (Aspca.com)
Elements of Single Animal Housing

For all animals, functional parameters should be met: sufficient floor space and height to allow the animal to assume all normal postures and engage in normal behaviors.

Elements of Group Housing

Group housing has been utilized to address some of the deficiencies associated with traditional individual housing. It is easier to provide animals behavioral choices, such as jumping, running, and hiding in a group housed setting.

Separation between different species; specially between dogs and other species since they are usually noisy they should be housed far from cats and other species.

Animals should be able see out but have some opportunity to avoid visual contact with other animals.

The separation between food, urination and defecation and resting areas should be maximized for all animals.

It is better that the cats are not restricted to floor level cages since this can cause stress compared to elevated cages.

It is better that the dogs have protected indoor-outdoor access.
There were many important traits I was looking for the site to have, such as being close enough to residential areas. Not too close where the shelter would create problems for the neighborhood but also not too far for people to make a quick visit. Additionally, it needed to be in a very natural site because of the nature of the project where the goal is to serve animals.

Alexandria is a home to people with many pets. The community in this city in one of the most pet friendly among US cities. Being close to Washington D.C. and other populated cities of Northern Virginia also makes Alexandria a perfect city for a shelter.
Easy Access to site from Eisenhower Avenue. There are also multiple exits from I-95 which makes driving to the shelter very convenient.

This area is full of parks and nature preserves. It’s also right next to the river which makes the site even more attractive for people and suitable for animals.

One of the very important features of the site is that the Holmes Run trail passes 2 sides of it. This makes inviting people to interact even more.

Since this is a very natural site there are many species living there. On top are some animal views in different point throughout the site.
We usually tend to forget that we are not living alone in the city. There are countless species even in small areas. In this site collage I have depicted some of the most common animals that one might find when exploring this area.

In this collage I also tried to show what happens around the site. On the right side we have the Cameron Run park which is a popular destination for the young. This is also very positive for the shelter because more kids will visit and maybe learn about the shelter animals. On the left side there is a recycling center which was very important to me since one of the thoughts is to help environment and to enhance the health of our cities.
LANDSCAPING TACTICS

Since there is a beautiful nature surrounding the site there will be many species visiting this area:

- **Dogs**, with their owners
- **Cats**, shelter cats are usually brought in boxes but hopefully some feral and community cats will reside here so they can be TNR'd (trap, neutered or spayed and released)
- Other wildlife mammals such as, squirrels, raccoons, possums, foxes, etc.
- **Birds**

To keep peace in the site there should be some places for the animals to hide, climb and rest. Close set planting specially in areas near dog housing would really help with buffering the noise. Tall plants are ideal for cats and squirrels to climb and scope from predators. Medium dense planting will allow all species to hide from eyes of visitors also keeps them warm during winter and it's a nice shading for summer time. Having lots of short soft planting would benefit all animals since it's gentle on their paws.

Making use of different plants and textures to repel or attract certain species and again to keep peace on the site. This helps with the appearance of the site since there won’t be walls and fences. Here are some plants that repel or attract cats and dogs:

**Cat attracting:** Catnip (Nepeta cataria), Catgrass, Asters, Scented geraniums (Pelargoniums), Blue mist shrub (Caryopteris), Sunflowers, Cosmos and Maiden grass (Miscanthus)

**Dog attracting:** Forsythia, Echinacea, Buddleja, Lilac, african daisy and purple basil

**Cat and dog repelling:** scaredy-cat plant (Colesus canina), rue, lavender, rosemary, and pennyroyal.
This drawing illustrates the early spatial arrangement on the site and in section. Having three main spaces: Cat, Dog and Human.

Cats have a shorter flight distance than dogs. (Flight initiation distance (FID) is the distance at which an animal will start to move away from an approaching threat such as a trail user) (Archive.is). This is one of the reasons that it’s better to place the cat part where there will be people passing by. It’s hard to determine what this distance is exactly, especially in domesticated animals. There are many factors that affect this distance, but in general the more tamed the smaller distance. Humans have developed very short flight distance in most cases. Depending on the predator this distance can change greatly.

Human spaces are placed as the connection of the animal spaces to manage and service them.

The dog part of the building is placed closer to the northern part of the site where there are more trees (as a natural sound buffer) and also less human traffic. Dogs are always sniffing the ground and are known for their earthiness, strength and looking up to humans. Because of these reasons their space is more grounded and heavy.

The cat part of the building is closer to trail and the river, where they can have a nice view to bird watch. Cats are known for their flexible body and tree climbing. They like to look over to people and feel strong. Their space is raised and feels light.
For humans to understand and feel how cats and dogs see the world I created few moments in the building where they can decline to the animal’s eye level so that they can experience being an animal!

Since this is in the dog part of the building, the main material is concrete to emphasize on the characteristics of a dog as well as serving structural needs of the grounded part.

Cats housing are layered in this drawing allowing birds and other creatures to reside on the same structure. Material is mostly steel to emphasize on flexibility and lightness of the cats as well as serving the structure.

Playing with different textures for the facade. Here human view is almost obstructed to make them view the world as a cat (if they are curious)!
Facade options to make the visitors aware of the different scales of animals with humans.

Concrete wall design

A sacred form for the four legged animals instead of a cross that represents the human body.
This drawing shows the details of the animal tower and how it connects to a magical room underground where you can play with an animal.

The tower itself represents a unity in all animals, including the human. The scale in the tower changes from its biggest user, the human, all the way to the smallest birds on top. Different animals can pass through, play or reside in it.
This preliminary design shows the basic arrangement of spaces and how they work together. Main focus is on the animal spaces with them having the best views and placements. The human part is in the middle connecting everything and creating an entrance for visitors. On the back side there is the crematorium almost hidden from the public eye view to keep its sacredness.
The building is like a two-headed creature extending its body to the trees, water, sunset and sunrise. Opening in the middle to invite people in. Fluid building in a very green bed letting people explore, interact and reflect.

One of the main changes that the building went through was the shape of each space. In the new design as you go into the animal spaces both the plan and section scale down. Some of the orientations also changed to get better views from or to the building. The project is also more fluid with the existing contour lines. Some elements such as a set of ramps and bridges are added to invite the people passing through.

This deck is one of the moments in the ramps and bridges where people can rest and enjoy the beautiful building. It would also be a very suitable place for those who just buried or cremated their pets to have a peaceful time.

Bridges go through the tower to create a beautiful moment for those passing.

Part of the Bridge is rested on the crematorium wall, making a nice shelter for those underneath also a resting moment for those on it.

Having cars on the site is unavoidable but to keep the nature and also to slow down the vehicles, grasscrete is used for necessary parts for the cars.
Everything is organized in a way to make the life of the building’s residents easier. They enter from the north side to get their checkups and treatments as fast as possible then cats are moved upstairs and dogs to their long term housing where they can play in the calm courtyard in the middle, get treated and trained until someone adopts them.
The same happens for cats. After getting treated they are moved to their housings. They can enjoy the beautiful view of the surroundings and play with each other until getting adopted.

Cat Housing next to glass floor to celebrate the living cats in their housings and remembering those passed away. The glass with the same rhythm represents the housings that could have been there for them.

Second Floor Plan:
1. Education Room
2. Rabbits, Hamsters, etc.
3. Cat Rooms
4. Animal Tower
5. Cat Isolation
6. Cat Quarantine
7. Treatment Room
8. Surgery Room
9. Kitchen/Laundry
10. Cat Grooming

Scale overhead with different sizes of openings to remind us of all creatures with their different scales.
Dog Housings Section

Dog rooms with access to outside and inside. Humans cannot get to landscaping unless they become an animal and climb.

Cat Housing Section

Human feeling imprisoned in animal housings rather than looking at the cats in cages. Single cat housing rather than stacked. Gives cats more space to live. Humans pay more attention to what is on their eye level, so this also gives each cat a fair chance to get adopted.


ASPCA Professional. ASPCapro. Accessed 10 Jan 2018. aspcapro.org


Helping one animal might not change the world but it would definitely change that one animal’s life.