

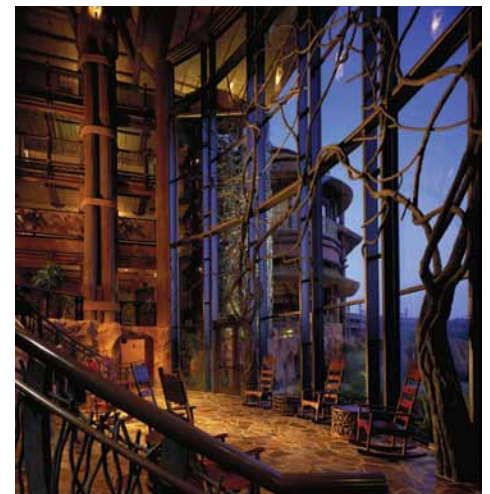
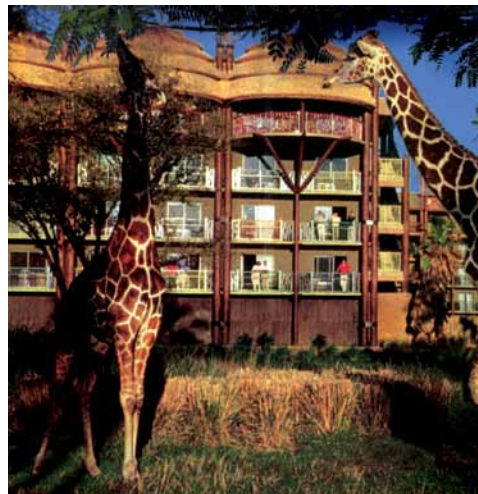
## Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge

Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge is a unique luxury resort designed to transport visitors into the myth, magic, and mystery of Africa's pristine wilderness, ancient civilizations, and vast landscapes. Built adjacent to Disney's Animal Kingdom, hundreds of wild animals and exotic birds thrive in a 33-acre savannah-like game park where they are quietly visible from the lodge's many guestrooms and viewing areas.

Combining the art of African craftsmen with wild game viewing, story telling around the campfire, and the simplicity of a tented camp, Animal Kingdom Lodge evokes the profound adventure of the Epic of Life -- dawn, dusk, the edge of light -- through an elegant journey to the Dark Continent. The 75-acre flat site in central Florida is adjacent to Walt Disney World's fourth theme park: The Animal Kingdom. Challenges encountered included translating African mythic animal and landscape traditions into built form and art; achieving the effects of African topography and long views on a flat site; and providing the comfort and familiarity of vernacular materials like mud and thatch using clean, safe, durable, new materials.

The horseshoe layout of the hotel echoes the shape of a Zulu Kraal. By placing the main lobby at the third level, above the service and livestock levels, visitors command a view of the savannah as through from a protruding outcropping of rock. Varying roof heights, materials, and textures disguise the extensive size of the hotel, as an "elephant in the bush."

Fiber thatch "shingles," synthetic rock "kopje," and a fiberglass "lamella" ceiling structure serve as clean, safe alternatives to vernacular African construction. The lobby features the work of African artists, offering the visitor an opportunity to "learn through entertainment."





## Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge

location: Walt Disney World (Orlando), Florida  
completion date: 2001

awards:  
THEA Award for Outstanding Achievement -  
Themed Hospitality Entertainment Association

publications:  
Hospitality Design  
Nikkei

