



Global extremes: Harnessing immersive climatic experiences for a sustainable message

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A panel of five experts, collaborating on the new National Aquarium of Saudi Arabia, will present specialized perspectives on how their respective issues must be addressed together to create a fully integrated, sustainable institution. They will show how an aquarium experience that focuses on extreme climates and habitats, and resultant adaptations and biodiversity, can establish a framework for sustainability throughout the institution. The panel will follow the thread of sustainability through the conservation message, green design, animal selection and husbandry, the strategy for a sustainable business plan, and the goals of the owner for a fully sustainable operation.

The aquarium will display biologically diverse ecosystems, including the Brazilian Rainforest, Nile River, Indonesian Savannah, Antarctica, and Arabian Peninsula. The biodiversity and adaptation message will be interwoven with lessons on climate change and sustainability. The aquarium must adhere to strict environmental standards in its architecture, operations, husbandry and management. The building needs to deal with intense solar gain, filtered daylighting, and sand-laden wind, and the animals will be cared for in a manner consistent with the aquarium's message. International aquarium expertise will be harnessed to train Saudi Arabians to create a sustainable institution.