



SHEIKH ZAYED DESERT LEARNING CENTRE

To thrive in the desert requires foresight, adaptability and a strong sense of conservation.

In the vast UAE desert section of the Al Ain Wildlife Park & Resort rises the Sheikh Zayed Desert Learning Centre (SZDLC), a tribute to the founding father of the UAE, who embodied those traits. The first building ever to achieve a Five Pearl rating (equivalent to LEED Platinum) at the design stage, the SZDLC is one of the pilot projects under the UAE's new Estidama environmental design standard.

Eos Lightmedia designed exhibit lighting to meet the Five Pearl standard, while reducing overall heat load, energy consumption and maintenance requirements. The exhibit lighting reinforces one of the key themes at the Learning Centre, the story of ecological conservation in a fragile ecosystem.

Equal parts museum and science centre, visitors can travel back in time to learn about geographic eras, explore the biodiversity of the Arabian desert, experience traditional Bedouin life, or zoom forward to look at the region's future.

DETAILS

Location: Al Ain, Abu Dhabi,
United Arab Emirates
Size: 13,100 square metres
Completion: 2014

CREDITS

Client: Aldrich Pears Associates
Interpretive Planning & Design: Aldrich Pears Associates
Exhibit Lighting Design: Eos Lightmedia
Exhibit Fabricator: Beck
Exhibit Lighting Contractor: SI Electric