

**Participant information**

Premier Building Systems  
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**Category**

Commercial/Industrial/Institutional Buildings over 10,000 sq. ft.

**High Performance:**

Yes

**Project information**

Point Defiance Zoo - Aquarium  
5400 N Pearl St  
Tacoma, WA 98407

**Date Completed:**

September 2019

**Total sq. ft. of conditioned space:**

35,000 sq. ft., larger tank exhibit alone is 15,270 sq. ft.

**Built By (if different than applicant)**

Turner Construction  
Premier SIPS  
830 4th Ave S #300  
Seattle, WA 98134

**Panels Manufactured By: Company Name (members only):**

Premier Building Systems

**Designed By (if different than applicant - SIPA will only recognize members)**

EHDD, San Francisco-based & BCRA Design  
Premier SIPS  
18504 Canyon Road East  
Tacoma, WA 98375

**Describe the end use of the building:**

Baja Bay, the 280,000-gallon show-stopper exhibit in the new Pacific Seas Aquarium, which opened to huge crowds and loud oohs and ahhs on Sept. 7 at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. It's just one of many habitats filled with sea creatures native to areas from the cold waters of Puget Sound to the subtropical climes of Baja California.

**How did SIP construction help you get this job?**

Climate controlled environments to support the large exhibit's habitats were required, which meant an efficient and stable indoor environment was required. The large tank exhibits also

required huge spans of the roof to allow the massive tanks the space for the exhibits and habitats to function naturally. In one tank, a giant Pacific octopus clings to the rocks or glass. In the 100,000-gallon Northwest Waters habitat, complete with barnacle-encrusted pilings and more than 400 brightly colored sea anemones, is home to animals that live in the zoo's very own backyard – Puget Sound. A 10 feet overhead tank features an unusual semi-tunnel that puts you right in the action. This is where sharks cruise overhead and spotted eagle rays glide by. Colorful subtropical bony fish, such as the bright reddish-orange big scale soldierfish, flit about in schools in these warmer waters. Lastly, the Tidal Touch Zone exhibit beckons. It is a place where guests connect intimately with the ocean, actually feeling the spikiness of sea urchins, the hardness of small crabs' shells, the soft squishiness of sea cucumbers and the astonishing variety of surfaces among different species of sea stars.

**SIP roof thickness and core material:**

12" EPS

**Describe the benefits of using SIPs on this project. Did SIPs help save time, labor, construction costs, or energy?**

Strength & Spans, Energy Efficiency, Speed of Construction in wet building season.

**Describe any innovative design elements or structural engineering involved:**

Structure Works NW was extremely involved in the structural design & engineering. They also managed the SIP installation.

**Please list any certifications the project received, such as ENERGY STAR, LEED, National Green Building Standard, WELL, Passive House, Green Globes or local green building programs. Only list certifications that are completed:**

Washington State Built GREEN.