Before starting any building measures, we need to consider the attribute of a dragon, the risks, the environment of dragons and how we can combine all of these with the interest of the visitors and ours.

**Attributes of dragons:**

1. Their size. They can reach up to 30 feet and therefore a huge habitat is necessary.
2. Their ability to breathe fire. We cannot risk a fire in the building. Not only the visitors would be in risk as well the dragons would probably die. So, therefore we need to have everything fire resistant or think about reasons why dragons breathe fire or in which situations. Can we convert their fire to electricity and take an advantage of it (save money, buy producing our own light)?
3. Their ability to fly. The height and width of the habitat need to be considered well.
4. Their sensitivity to cold weather. The winters in Las Vegas get quite chilly and we would need to heat their habitat (high costs).
5. The need of 98% humidity (again high costs to keep it humid).
6. Dragons can only be kept as a couple of one male and one female; otherwise we would face territorial fights.
7. Their aggression. Probably it will be impossible for the zookeepers to interact with them. We would need special entrance locking to keep the keepers safe and to feed and clean.

**Risks:**

1. The fire breathing.
2. The ability to fly.
3. Their aggression.
4. Their weather sensitivity.

**Natural environment of dragons:**

They normally live on the Asian continent and are used to warm temperatures from 82 F to 105 F degrees. The climate there is very humid (up to 98%) and the landscape is very green, almost tropical, like a jungle.

One dragon/ or couple is dominating around 7sq Miles of land, so to build a suitable habitat won’t be easy.

They move in the daytime to hunt as then they have the best ability to see. Their common food, are medium sized mammals, like lions and zebras, but also monkeys. They eat daily and one dragon needs at least two lions a day to be stuffed.

They drink normal fresh water.

Dragons sleep in the night in the trees.

**Interest of visitors:**

1. We would need to build a habitat where people can watch the dragons in their natural behavior.
2. The habitat needs to be safe; so there is no risk that one could escape. Probably we should have riffles with anesthetic ready, if in the unlikely event one can flee.
3. People want to see how dragons hunt and eat, so therefore we can make a small show, like a feeding time and the visitors can see how the dragons catch their prey.

**Our interests:**

1. Keep the dragons safe and healthy.
2. Keep the costs in a limit.
3. Offer the visitors something new and unique.

When looking up all this points, it is clear that we only can keep two dragons.

Their habitat shall be a 0.5sq Miles big building with a dome and with a height of 1300 feet. The top will be closed to stop them from escaping (ability to fly). The main part will be made from bulletproof glass. One third of the building shall be indoors, to have extra space. This part will be connected to the main habitat with a special locking to supply the dragons with the alive food and in case one of them needs medical supply he can be treated there (sure under narcosis). As well they can be left there as in the day when the habitat will be cleaned.

As we have plenty of sun in Las Vegas, the whole roof of the building will be covered with solar panels to reduce the energy costs for the long term (dragons live up 150 years). We will need a special heating system as used for reptiles and an air humidifier to keep up the constant weather conditions. The solar panels will store enough energy for the nights and additionally we will put other energy storages inside the habitat so we can collect the fire of the dragons and change it as well to electricity.

Normally dragons use their fire to hunt their food; they try to scare their prey and push them into a corner. By the architectural design we can build only one clear corner, so it will be easier to put the energy storages around this area.

On the outer side will be a bridge leading the visitors along the building to watch the dragons through the glass. Sure, it will offer a good sight to the corner, where the eating and hunting action will take place.

We do have to put natural plants and trees in the cage as other wise the dragons won’t be happy. There is a great fire resistant paste with can be put over the trees through sprinklers. This has to be repeated weekly when the dragons are indoors and the cleaning takes its process.

We will bring some special Sequoioideaetrees from Papa New Guinea. Those trees are huge enough to offer plenty of space for the dragons to sleep on.

As well we will create a small artificial lake inside the habitat to provide enough water for them. It will work with a pump to constantly deliver fresh water.

In general I believe that we, as the first zoo in the world, offering the possibility to see real dragons is attraction enough to get visitors. As we planed to have a couple it is possible that after a few month we might get some baby dragons and these can be grown by hand to get them gentle. Then there will be new options for shows.