Shortly before World War II, the construction of the Lion House began, yet it was completed in 1955. A part of it was an underground arena, the glass dome of which can be spotted in the middle (Zulus the lion enjoys basking there). Right after the war, lion taming shows launched in the arena, led by lions trainer. Those performances were intended to provide the Warsaw Zoological Garden with an additional source of income and help rebuild after the war. In later years, the arena was sometimes used by filmmakers - several films and music videos were shot in it.

The arena was finally shut down in the early 1970s. Since then, it has been closed to the general public and is used only as a place for wintering turtles.