

U.S. EMBASSY RABAT, MOROCCO

NEW U.S. EMBASSY DEDICATION FACT SHEET

NOVEMBER 2014



Design Architect SmithGroupJJR

Architect of Record PAGE

General Contractor B.L. Harbert International

Site 8 acres

Total Project Budget \$181 million

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The new U.S. Embassy is situated on an 8-acre site on King Mohammed IV Road, approximately three miles from the Rabat city center, in a residential and business neighborhood.
- The multi-building complex includes a chancery building, two underground garages, a service/utility building, and a Marine Security Guard residence.
- The new Embassy provides a safe, secure, and modern workplace for Embassy staff.
- Construction commenced in January 2012 and was completed in September 2014.

DESIGN

- The building meets all of the Department's standards for security and provides open, light-filled spaces for the employees.
- To accommodate strict height limitations, the entire site was excavated 30 feet to gain space below ground level.
- Moroccan materials and design elements include monochrome zellij tilework, local marble, and native plants. The interior courtyard, with its Moroccan-influenced landscaping, provides outdoor space for embassy events.
- Terra cotta tiles were used in the exterior of the building, creating an inviting façade.

CONSTRUCTION

- Approximately 2,000 American, local, and other workers were involved in construction of the project, including laborers and full-time administrative and health care support.
- The project was constructed with over 3 million man hours of labor, technical and administrative staff.
- The excavation of almost the entire site required four months of continuous excavation with heavy equipment and about 30 trucks.

SUSTAINABILITY

- The project is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®), and is targeting the Gold level of certification.
- The underground parking is covered with large vegetated roofs, which also add beauty to the site.
- All water used onsite is treated and reused on site for irrigation.
- A white roof and the light color exterior reflect solar heat and keep the building's exterior cool, saving energy.
- Building systems are automated and state of the art to help reduce operating costs.



SmithGroupJJR

ART

- The permanent art collection, curated by the Office of Art in Embassies, will include photographs, paintings, sculpture and mixed-media works. The collection celebrates Morocco's natural beauty, its people, and the many ways it has inspired American and Moroccan artists.
- Lighting and point of view dramatically change the appearance of "Pattern Flows," a site-specific commission by Kendall Buster. Layers of semi-transparent planes span the Embassy's atrium, suspended from the ceiling by steel aircraft cables and suggesting clouds or geographic planes seen through a lens.
- In a multi-year collaboration with the Rhode Island School of Design, lead artist Jim Drain and visiting Moroccan textile artist Soukaina Aldrissi created an exterior sculpture for the front garden.
- A series of collaborative works of collage on canvas by American artist Katharine Bernhardt and Moroccan artist Youssef Jdia incorporates discarded textiles, trimmings, and advertisements in symmetrical compositions that recapitulate the balanced layout of Moroccan rugs.
- The Moroccan American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE) and the Office of Art in Embassies selected works of art by several young, emerging Moroccan artists on the theme "I have a dream" for permanent display

CONTACT INFORMATION

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