

U.S. Embassy Addis Ababa

LEED® Certified



The U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Certified building in Ethiopia. It is the twelfth U.S. Diplomatic facility to achieve this prestigious certification.

Site 22 acres | Project Cost \$157 Million | Occupancy August 2011

Sustainable Sites

The new embassy is located just below Entoto Mountain and overlooking Addis Ababa. The site was designed to maintain much of the plant and wildlife that has existed on the site for many years. Palm, flame, acacia, olive, cypress, and yellowwood trees provide shade and beauty around the site.

Pedestrian oriented hardscape surfaces are constructed from light colored concrete to avoid urban heat island effect.

Water Efficiency

The building is calculated to use 32% less water than the performance requirements of EPA 1992. This is accomplished through the use of waterless urinals, automatic shut-off faucets, and low-flow plumbing fixtures.

Energy and Atmosphere

The new embassy is calculated to reduce energy costs by 14% compared to the calculated baseline (ASHRAE 90.1-2004). The building's sunshades and light-colored stone façade reduce solar heat gain. Additionally, the Embassy employs many energy-efficient technologies including solar hot water; LED task lighting; occupancy sensors; electric traction elevators; and variable frequency drives for pumps, fans, and motors.

The building managers optimize performance by utilizing an automation system that allows the building to dynamically respond to the local climate, and monitors the systems. All pumps and motors over five horsepower use variable frequency drives. Occupancy sensors turn off lights when rooms are unoccupied.

Materials and Resources

This facility was built using sustainable materials. Over 21% of base building materials contain recycled content, including rebar, ceiling tiles, carpet, and insulation. An estimated 80% of waste generated during construction was diverted from landfills and incinerators. This was largely accomplished through donations to the local population.

Indoor Environmental Quality

Employees and visitors will benefit from a superior indoor environment. By monitoring CO₂ levels, optimal amounts of fresh air are provided to the occupants. Outside air is filtered with HEPA and carbon filters. Low-emitting materials were selected to reduce potential off-gassing after installation. Adhesives, sealants, paints, coatings, and furniture systems all contain low quantities of volatile organic compounds.

Architect PageSoutherlandPage

Contractor B.L. Harbert International

Landscape AST Cowen Design Group

Civil Cervantes and Associates

Structural Ehlert / Bryan

MEP H&A Architects & Engineers

Commissioning PMA Consulting
