

# U.S. Embassy Valletta LEED® Silver Certified



The U.S. Embassy in Valletta, Malta is the fifth Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Certified project in Malta. The embassy earned the silver level of LEED under LEED for New Construction green building rating system.

Site 10 acres | Project Cost \$125 Million | Occupancy June 2011

## Sustainable Sites

The new Embassy is located in the Attard neighborhood of Ta'Qali near Ta'Qali National Park. The plantings on the grounds preserve habitat and encourage biodiversity by using an ecosystem mimicking the island's natural vegetation. These low, scattered, often spiny and aromatic, shrubs are of the Garigue community. This type of habitat is fast declining due to the encroachment of the building industry and new roads.

## Energy and Atmosphere

The Embassy is projected to reduce energy costs by 62% compared to the calculated baseline (ASHRAE 90.1-2004) after the installation of the 205 kW photovoltaic array that will produce emissions-free electricity.

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.

Facility managers are able to optimize performance through a Building Automation System that allows dynamic response to local climate conditions and variations.

## Water Efficiency

A portion of the site is planted with species that can survive solely on rainfall. Due to the island's impervious subterranean geology, the Embassy stores large amounts of water in underground cisterns. Rainwater is collected and used for irrigation where needed.

The building is calculated to use 48% less water than the performance requirements of EPA Act 1992. This is accomplished through the use of waterless urinals, automatic shut-off faucets, and low-flow plumbing fixtures.

## Indoor Environmental Quality

Employees and visitors will benefit from a superior indoor environment. By monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> levels, optimal amounts of fresh air are provided to the occupants. Outside air is filtered with HEPA and carbon filters.

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**Architect** KCCT Architects

**Contractor** AICI – Special Projects

**Landscape** Rhodeside & Harwell

**Civil** Cervantes & Associates

**Structural** Johns and Bhatia Engineering

**MEP** EK Fox

**Commissioning** EYP Mission Critical Facilities

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