

U.S. EMBASSY VIENTIANE, LAOS

NEW U.S. EMBASSY FACT SHEET

DECEMBER 2014



Design Architect Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP

Architect of Record PAGE

Design/Build Contractor B.L. Harbert International

Site 7.4 acres

Office Space 7,673 square meters

Total Project Budget \$145 million

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The new U.S. Embassy is situated on a 7.4-acre site south of downtown Vientiane, on Thadeua Road leading to the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge.
- The multi-building complex includes a chancery office building, a Marine Security Guard residence, a utility building, and a parking structure.
- Construction commenced in April 2012 and was completed in October 2014.
- An American Center, scheduled for completion in late 2015, will be built on the current administrative compound in the downtown area.

DESIGN

- The complex meets the Department's security standards and provides modern office space for the embassy staff.
- The architecture and landscaping interpret the local architecture, culture, and art and craft traditions in a contemporary fashion.
- Sunshades covering the main and consular plazas provide respite from the direct tropical sun and humid climate for visitors awaiting visas or attending representational events.
- The façade is covered in white terracotta panels with a stainless steel band at the roofline.
- Significant water features in the landscape design, such as ponds and flowing water at the building entrance, reflect the importance of water in Lao culture.

CONSTRUCTION

- Approximately 1,250 American, local, and other workers were involved in the design and construction of the project, including laborers and full-time administrative and health care support.
- The project was constructed with over 3.5 million man hours of labor, technical, and administrative staff, with an exemplary safety record.

- The project included hardwood from Laos and Thailand, as well as Lao landscaping materials.
- Over 21,100 cubic meters of concrete and 1.3 million kilograms of reinforcing steel were used throughout the complex.

SUSTAINABILITY

- The project is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) certification, and is projected to receive LEED® Silver certification.
- Water conservation strategies include low-flow water fixtures, drip irrigation, and drought-tolerant plants. The canopies capture rain water and channel it into the ponds.
- Solar panels contribute up to 15Kw of solar power.
- Energy-efficient appliances, solar hot water heaters, and LED task lighting reduce the building's energy use.
- A wastewater treatment plant captures and treats all wastewater on the compound; it is then used for irrigation. All stormwater runoff captured on site is cleaned through natural stone and sand filters.
- Materials with high recycled content include carpets, casework, building insulation, and desk task lights.
- The project used sustainably harvested wood and bamboo materials, and low-VOC paints and adhesives to improve indoor air quality.

SUSTAINABLE FEATURES



Water treatment plant



Harvested wood and bamboo material interior



Drip irrigation, and drought-tolerant plants

ART

- The permanent art collection, curated by the Office of Art in Embassies, encompasses textiles, paintings, sculpture and mixed-media works by U.S. and Lao artists.
- The collection as a whole will celebrate the natural beauty of Laos, its people, and the many similar ways it has inspired both American and Lao artists.
- Highlights include site-specific commissions by U.S. artists Dan Steinhilber, Judy Legerwood, Lyn Horton, and Ara Peterson. Reflecting a strong, cross-cultural understanding, their works are influenced and informed in depth by the diversity and richness of Lao cultural heritage.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Matthew Ference
Public Affairs Officer
+856-21-26-7000 | FerenceM@state.gov

Christine Foushee
OBO Director of External Affairs
703-875-4131 | FousheeCT@state.gov