

U.S. EMBASSY COTONOU, BENIN

DEDICATION FACT SHEET

JULY 2015



Yost, Grube, Hall Architects

Design Architect Yost, Grube, Hall Architects

Architect of Record PAGE

General Contractor B.L. Harbert International

Total Project Budget \$189 Million

In an important symbol of enduring friendship with Benin and as part of the U.S. Department of State's Capital Security Construction Program, the United States dedicated a new U.S. Embassy Complex in Cotonou on July 8, 2015.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The new Embassy complex is located on an 8.8-acre site along one of the city's main thoroughfares, Boulevard de la Marina. The site is in close proximity to other diplomatic facilities and ministerial buildings near the city center, and is 1.2 miles away from the airport and seaport.
- The compound includes an office building, Marine Security Guard residence, support annex, warehouse, utility building, and other facilities for the embassy community.
- The new Embassy provides a state-of-the-art, environmentally sustainable workplace for more than 200 employees.
- Construction commenced in April 2013 and was completed in early summer 2015.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

- The new Embassy design is organized into distinct zones: representational, consular, general embassy staff work area, service, support, and open landscape.
- The complex design reflects the character of the local environment, and the primary buildings feature specialized two-story sunscreens that provide sun control and privacy, while allowing views.
- Light-colored exterior building materials were used to help reduce the "heat island effect." The office building and Marine Security Guard residence are clad in light-colored granite. Other exterior materials include metal panels, ceramic tiles, and cement plaster.
- Visitors to the complex will be invited through a gateway plaza and consular garden with integrated site lighting and plantings. Exterior walkways and parking areas introduce trees for shading. Walkway patterns and stones are based on local textile methods and materials.

- The new office building features an Information Resource Center to enhance local outreach and U.S. public diplomacy efforts.
- An estimated \$32 million was invested in the local economy and over 900 Beninese workers performed more than 3.5 million local man-hours. Many of those workers learned a trade to raise the standards of construction in the Benin community.

SUSTAINABILITY

- The project is registered with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) program, targeting a Silver certification.
- Notable features include a 278 kilowatt - photovoltaic array (PV), rainwater harvesting, and the reuse light-emitting diode (LED) site lighting, water conserving plumbing fixtures, and a sunshade feature.
- The site design maximizes the use of locally sourced drought-tolerant plantings and trees.

ART

- The art collection consists of more than 40 works in a variety of media, including several site-specific commissions to be installed throughout the Chancery and on the grounds of the Embassy.
- The collection includes works by contemporary artists from both the United States and Benin. Each piece has been carefully selected for its quality and ability to promote cross-cultural dialogue through the arts.
- All works in the exhibition relate to the act of creative reuse, a theme commonly explored by contemporary artists in both countries. The exhibition will be accompanied by a printed catalogue, designed to assist embassy personnel with interpretation and educational outreach.



EdJohnetta Miller, Untitled (pieced fiber)



Charles McGee, "Play Patterns"



Charles Philippe Jean Pierre, "African Blues Brothers"

CONTACT INFORMATION

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