

# U.S. EMBASSY COTONOU, BENIN

## NEW EMBASSY GROUND BREAKING FACT SHEET

AUGUST 2013



Yost, Grube, Hall Architects

**Conceptual Design Firm** Yost, Grube, Hall Architects

**Architect of Record** Page Southerland Page

**General Construction Contractor** B.L. Harbert International

**Total Project Cost** Approximately \$178 million

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- ★ The new Embassy will be located on an 8.8 acre site along one of the town's main thoroughfares - Boulevard de la Marina. The site is in close proximity to other diplomatic facilities and ministerial buildings near the town center, and 2 kilometers away from the airport and seaport.
- ★ The complex will include a chancery/office building, a support annex, a residence for the U.S. Marine detachment, a warehouse, a utility building, a recreational facility, and access pavilions to welcome employees, visitors, and consular customers.
- ★ The new Embassy provides a state-of-the-art, environmentally sustainable workplace for approximately 150 employees.
- ★ Construction commenced in April 2013 and project completion is anticipated in the fall of 2015.

## DESIGN

- ★ The new Embassy design is organized into distinct zones: representational, consular, embassy staff and recreational, service, and open landscape.
- ★ The complex design reflects the character of the local environment and buildings will feature specialized roof overhangs and screens that take advantage of Cotonou's close proximity to the equator.
- ★ Light-colored exterior building materials will be used to help reduce the "heat island effect". The chancery, access pavilions, and U.S. Marine residence will be clad in white honed durable stone. Other exterior materials will 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, artwork, 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 will feature a multimedia center to enhance outreach and U.S. public diplomacy efforts. The multimedia center will replace the function of the current American Cultural Center, and become an inviting location for press conferences, meetings, and presentations.
- ★ A gallery space inside the new office building will provide a place for large gatherings, events, lounge areas, and cafeteria seating. Interior public spaces will feature polished white and marigold stone flooring, stone clad walls, and solid wood doors.

## DESIGN INSPIRATION



## SUSTAINABILITY

- ★ The project has targeted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification.
- ★ Notable features include a photovoltaic array (PV), rainwater harvesting, and the reuse of wastewater for irrigation.
- ★ Other sustainable features include light-emitting diode (LED) site lighting, water conserving plumbing fixtures, and envelope load reduction by use of an extensive sunshade assembly.
- ★ The site design maximizes the use of locally sourced drought-tolerant plantings and trees.

## EXTERIOR IMAGES



All Renderings: Yost, Grube, Hall Architects

## CONSTRUCTION

- ★ An estimated \$32 million will be invested in the local economy and over 600 Beninese workers will perform more than 2.5 million local man-hours. Many of those workers will learn a trade to raise the standards of construction in the Benin community.

---

### CONSTRUCTION FACTS

- 6,000- tons of reinforcing steel
- 20,000- cubic meters of concrete
- 400- shipment containers of materials
- 225- new trees planted
- 250- kilowatts of solar panels

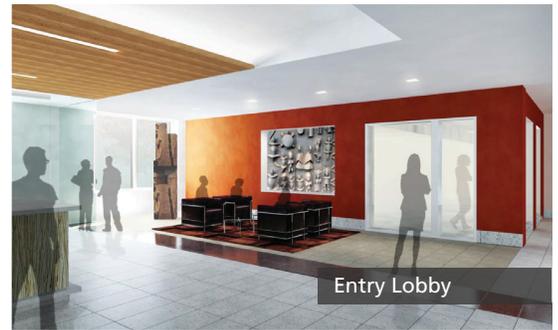
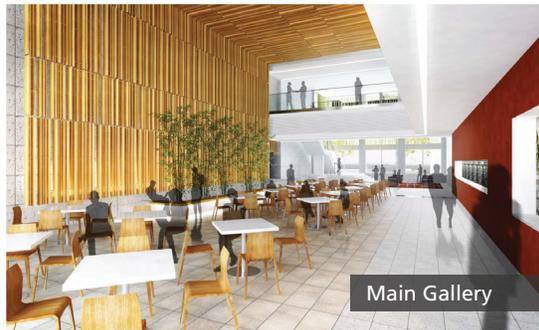
---

## ART

- ★ The art collection will include works by contemporary artists from the United States and Benin.
- ★ One theme of the exhibition will be art made from repurposed materials, as this is common to the arts in both countries in recent years.
- ★ The collection will include objects in a variety of media, to be installed in the Chancery and on the grounds of the Embassy.

---

### INTERIOR IMAGES



All Renderings: Yost, Grube, Hall Architects

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Douglas Johnston

Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Cotonou  
(229) 21300312, ext. 711 | JohnstonDE@state.gov

### Christine Foushee

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