

Innovation Center Helsinki

LEED® Platinum Certified



The Innovation Center at the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki, Finland is the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Platinum certified overseas U.S. diplomatic facility. The Center, which houses the Embassy's public offices, joins an elite group of buildings in Finland earning this certification.

Site 3.5 Acres | Project Cost \$20.9 Million | Occupancy February 2013

Sustainable Sites

The U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Finland is situated on a 3.5 acre compound in the prestigious Helsinki City district known as Kaivopuisto. Located less than a mile from the heart of downtown Helsinki, visitors are offered a low-carbon transportation option including riding the tram, utilizing the local bicycle networks, or walking through this picturesque neighborhood.

Water Efficiency

The Center is designed to reduce water consumption by a calculated 30% from the baseline case through the use of low-flush and low-flow plumbing fixtures, and waterless urinals. No permanent irrigation was needed to sustain the carefully selected plantings on the embassy grounds.

Energy and Atmosphere

The Innovation Center is projected to reduce energy costs by 46% from the baseline case (ASHRAE 90.1-2007). This energy savings is accomplished through natural ventilation; triple glazed windows; R-42 roof insulation; air-side economizers; and city-provided district hot water and chilled water which alleviate the need to operate and maintain chillers and large boilers. Further, a significant amount of the chilled water is sourced directly from the Gulf of Finland, utilizing a local, natural resource which significantly reduces green house gas emissions. The Center is the first U.S. diplomatic building to be lit with 100% daylight dimming, Light Emitting Diode (LED) and Organic LED (OLED) for interior and exterior lighting. These fixtures eliminate the need for replacing light bulbs for 10 to 12 years.

Material and Resources

The Innovation Center maintained 64% of the building's original structure, reducing the embodied energy of the renovation. Twenty-two percent of new base building materials installed in the Center contained recycled content including structural steel, gypsum board, linoleum flooring, and solid surface counter tops. Durable materials were used throughout the building, notably the high-performance zinc roof is designed to last for 100 years. Ninety percent of waste generated during construction was diverted from landfills and recycled.

Indoor Environmental Quality

With the introduction of large, floor-to-ceiling, windows on the east and west ends of the building, occupants can look through the facility to see the Gulf of Finland. In addition to spectacular views, the new windows tremendously enhance the natural daylight inside the work spaces; an important attribute at this northern latitude.

Design Architect Moore Ruble Yudell

Architect of Record Page

Contractor BL Harbert International

Landscape Rhodeside & Harwell

Civil KPFF

Structural Ehlert/Bryan

MEP H&A Architects & Engineers

Commissioning PMA Consulting

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