

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson

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For Immediate Release

December 2, 2014

United States Dedicates  
New U.S. Embassy in Rabat, Morocco

In an important symbol of our commitment and enduring relationship with Morocco, U.S. Ambassador to Morocco Dwight L. Bush, Sr., and Principal Deputy Director of the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations Heather Townsend, alongside local officials, dedicated the new U.S. Embassy in Rabat today.

The new multi-building complex provides employees with a safe, secure, and modern workplace. The campus is situated on a site of just under 8 acres, on King Mohammed IV Road, approximately 3 miles from the Rabat city center. With a project budget of \$181 million, it includes a Chancery, a U.S. Marine Security Guard residence, and a service/utility building.

The project incorporates numerous sustainable features to conserve resources and reduce operating costs, including large vegetated roofs over the underground parking structures, and a white roof and light-colored exterior to reflect solar heat. Automated air-conditioning and heating systems will reduce operating costs. All water used on-site is treated and used for site irrigation.

SmithGroupJJR of Washington, D.C. is the design architect and PAGE of Washington, D.C., is the architect of record. B.L. Harbert International of Birmingham, Alabama constructed the multi-building campus.

Since 1999, as part of the Department's Capital Security Construction Program, the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) has completed 118 new diplomatic facilities and has an additional 41 projects in design or under construction.

OBO's mission is to provide safe, secure, and functional facilities that represent the U.S. government to the host nation and support our staff in the achievement of U.S. foreign policy objectives. These facilities should represent American values and the best in American architecture, engineering, technology, sustainability, art, culture, and construction execution.

For more information on the project, please visit <http://overseasbuildings.state.gov/releases/kits/>, or contact Christine Foushee at [FousheeCT@state.gov](mailto:FousheeCT@state.gov) or (703) 875-4131.

# U.S. EMBASSY RABAT, MOROCCO

NEW U.S. EMBASSY DEDICATION FACT SHEET

NOVEMBER 2014



**Design Architect** SmithGroupJJR

**Architect of Record** PAGE

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

**Site** 8 acres

**Total Project Budget** \$181 million

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- The new U.S. Embassy is situated on an 8-acre site on King Mohammed IV Road, approximately three miles from the Rabat city center, in a residential and business neighborhood.
- The multi-building complex includes a chancery building, two underground garages, a service/utility building, and a Marine Security Guard residence.
- The new Embassy provides a safe, secure, and modern workplace for Embassy staff.
- Construction commenced in January 2012 and was completed in September 2014.

## DESIGN

- The building meets all of the Department's standards for security and provides open, light-filled spaces for the employees.
- To accommodate strict height limitations, the entire site was excavated 30 feet to gain space below ground level.
- Moroccan materials and design elements include monochrome zellij tilework, local marble, and native plants. The interior courtyard, with its Moroccan-influenced landscaping, provides outdoor space for embassy events.
- Terra cotta tiles were used in the exterior of the building, creating an inviting façade.

## CONSTRUCTION

- Approximately 2,000 American, local, and other workers were involved in construction of the project, including laborers and full-time administrative and health care support.
- The project was constructed with over 3 million man hours of labor, technical and administrative staff.
- The excavation of almost the entire site required four months of continuous excavation with heavy equipment and about 30 trucks.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- The project is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®), and is targeting the Gold level of certification.
- The underground parking is covered with large vegetated roofs, which also add beauty to the site.
- All water used onsite is treated and reused on site for irrigation.
- A white roof and the light color exterior reflect solar heat and keep the building's exterior cool, saving energy.
- Building systems are automated and state of the art to help reduce operating costs.



SmithGroupJJR

## ART

- The permanent art collection, curated by the Office of Art in Embassies, will include photographs, paintings, sculpture and mixed-media works. The collection celebrates Morocco's natural beauty, its people, and the many ways it has inspired American and Moroccan artists.
- Lighting and point of view dramatically change the appearance of "Pattern Flows," a site-specific commission by Kendall Buster. Layers of semi-transparent planes span the Embassy's atrium, suspended from the ceiling by steel aircraft cables and suggesting clouds or geographic planes seen through a lens.
- In a multi-year collaboration with the Rhode Island School of Design, lead artist Jim Drain and visiting Moroccan textile artist Soukaina Aldrissi created an exterior sculpture for the front garden.
- A series of collaborative works of collage on canvas by American artist Katharine Bernhardt and Moroccan artist Youssef Jdia incorporates discarded textiles, trimmings, and advertisements in symmetrical compositions that recapitulate the balanced layout of Moroccan rugs.
- The Moroccan American Commission for Educational and Cultural Exchange (MACECE) and the Office of Art in Embassies selected works of art by several young, emerging Moroccan artists on the theme "I have a dream" for permanent display

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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