
The new multi-building complex provides employees with a safe, secure, and modern workplace. The campus is situated on a 7.4-acre site in a neighborhood south of downtown Vientiane, on the road leading to the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge over the Mekong River.

With a project budget of $145 million, it includes a Chancery, a U.S. Marine Security Guard residence, a parking structure, and a utility building.

The project incorporates numerous sustainable features to conserve resources and reduce operating costs, including energy-efficient appliances, photovoltaic panels, solar hot water heaters, and drought-resistant landscaping. All wastewater generated on-site is treated and used for site irrigation.

Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects LLP of Portland, Oregon, 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.

A new American Center, scheduled for completion in late 2015, will be constructed on the current compound in the downtown area, which will be renovated and continue to support the Embassy.

Since 1999, as part of the Department’s Capital Security Construction Program, the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) has completed 119 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 or (703) 875-4131.
U.S. EMBASSY
VIENTIANE, LAOS
NEW U.S. EMBASSY FACT SHEET
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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](image1)
![Harvested wood and bamboo material interior](image2)
![Drip irrigation, and drought-tolerant plants](image3)

**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**

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