General Information

- The new Consulate General is located on a 3.4 hectares (7.4 -acre) urban site in the booming new Central Business District (CBD) and cultural heartland of Guangzhou - Pearl River New Town, and the city's new axis, adjacent to the Pearl River.

- Situated in a garden setting, the seven-building complex includes a consular building, an office building, a residence for U.S. marines, a warehouse with service shops, and three entrance pavilions to welcome employees, visitors, and consular customers.

- The new Consulate General will create a secure and pleasant workplace for nearly 400 employees, and a friendly and comfortable place for visitors and customers.

- The new Consulate General is the U.S.' first self developed and owned and one stop shop consulate compound in China, and the second after the new Embassy, since U.S.-China relations were officially resumed in 1979.

Design

- The centerpiece of the complex is a four-story consular building featuring an interior “Great Hall” and 67 service windows for visa applicants and U.S. citizens. The stone-clad building is flooded with natural light, and the Great Hall features natural wood wall and ceiling finishes as well as local stone flooring.

- The stone-clad continuous exterior concrete shell of the consular building is an efficient structural and environmental form. The curved shape maximizes the efficiency of these qualities while the inward cant along the east façade catches the prevailing easterly breeze, focusing it on the public gathering space. This shape also gives the building a directional stance, emphasizing the civic quality of the more public eastern face. Its north and south ends, with their deep overhangs provide welcome, open and warm gestures to the public.

- The architectural conception of the main consular building begins with the visa process itself. The need to move hundreds of daily applicants through a seamless, simple, and clear spatial sequence is the primary public function of the building and the site. The arching roof form provides shelter from the heat and rain; there is also a gathering space for those awaiting their appointments, which can accommodate over one thousand non-immigrant visa customers (NIV) and immigrant visa (IV) customers daily.
The facilities were designed for flexibility for current and future use. With the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and China evolving so quickly and the demand for consular services growing at such unprecedented rates, the building is built to adapt to these changes easily with minimal cost.

The contrasting office building is a formal cube of self-weathering steel, clad in clear glass at its upper register, and resting on a stone base.

The compound also offers facilities for public events. Visitors to the Information Resource Center, commercial service clients, a state-of-the-art multi-purpose room, and will find a large "Great Hall" for presentations and exhibitions.

**Landscape**

- The landscape design facilitates an intuitive understanding of movement through the buildings and site. The landscape includes a walkway modulated by a tapestry of local stone and unit pavers, and interspersed with plant materials in a pattern that extends from the visa windows, across the Great Hall, through the garden and entry pavilion, and out to Hua Xia Road.

- The building façade and landscaped areas have been designed to integrate local stone with trees and other plantings from southern China.

**Construction**

- The construction groundbreaking took place in October 2009 and the project reached substantial completion in April 2013.

- Over 800 Chinese and American workers were involved in construction of the new Consulate General.

**Sustainability**

- The Consulate General facility is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council with the goal of earning Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification. The design demonstrates strategies to reduce energy consumption and pollution, mitigate storm water runoff and other development impacts, and create a more livable, sustainable community.

- The new Consulate General has bilingual signage in public spaces, highlighting green building and site features.

- The artificial lights in the buildings automatically dim when daylight can illuminate the building’s interior, saving on energy and costs. Daylight is controlled to prevent heat gain through the use of recessed exterior glazing and wooden louvers.

- The main consular building features a white, highly reflective roof, which avoid cooling loads by reflecting the sun’s heat. Green roofs are featured on the smaller entrance pavilions and service buildings with hardy grasses and flowering sedum planted on the roofs. The green roofs help insulate the building, capture and filter rainwater, and help filter the city’s air.

- Storm water is retained on site and filtered through a series of “bio basins” or sunken gardens filled with indigenous grasses and plantings.

- The building has water-conserving plumbing fixtures, including low-flush and low-flow fixtures.

- Waste generated from construction activity was sorted on site and over 50% was diverted from landfills for recycling or reuse.
Art

- The permanent art collection, curated by the Office of Art in Embassies (AIE), includes works by contemporary American, Chinese, and Chinese-American artists for both the interior and exterior spaces. The works include a variety of media: Paint, photography, textiles, paper, and steel.

- The Chinese photographers in the collection—An Hong, Gao Bao, Guan Ceg, Hong Lei, Jiang Zhig, Jin Yongquang, Liu Anping, Liu Zheng, Qiu Zhijie, Rong Rong, San Mao, Wang Xu, Yan Lei, Zhao Liang, Zheng Guogu, and Zhuang Hui—all played a seminal role in the history of Chinese experimental photography, and are represented in NEW PHOTO – Ten Years, a portfolio and facsimile reprint of NEW PHOTO, the seminal underground magazine and forerunner of contemporary Chinese photography. Some demonstrate the gradual transition from photojournalism to experimental photography, while others are more firmly planted in the realm of the experimental.

- The collection also features three site-specific commissions by renowned video artists Doug Aitken, Jennifer Steinkamp, and Bill Viola.

- In addition, The Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies (FAPE) has graciously donated a monumental work by U.S. artist, Joel Shapiro. FAPE is a private non-profit organization that supports AIE’s mission.

Contact Information

Young Lee
Acting Public Affairs Officer
+86-20-83354269 ext. 85  |  LeeYE@state.gov

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