

# U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL MONTERREY, MEXICO

## PROJECT FACT SHEET

JULY 2014



**Design Architect** Zimmer Gunsul Frasca

**Architect of Record** Karn Charuhas Chapman Twohey

**General Contractor** Yates-Desbuild Joint Venture

**Site** 10 acres

**Total Project Cost** \$ 154 Million

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- The U.S. Consulate in Monterrey serves more than 400,000 visa applicants each year, making it the fifth-largest visa processing post in the world.
- The new Consulate General is located on 10-acre site in the Santa Catarina, Nuevo Leon area and includes a new office building with consular functions, a U.S. Marine Corps Residence, access pavilions and support buildings.
- The new Consulate General will create a secure, sustainable, and modern workspace for Consulate employees, and a friendly and comfortable place for visitors.
- The dedication of the new Consulate General marks the United States' third new diplomatic facility recently built in Mexico, with three additional facilities in the planning stages, including a new U.S. Embassy in Mexico City.

## DESIGN

- The office building is composed of two primary elements - a five-story structure clad with metal panels with a porcelain tile base and a two-story structure clad in local stone. The two-story structure acts as a counterpoint to the metal clad building and helps tie the building to the local geology.
- The design provides for an open air elevated plaza that acts as a dining area for local staff, providing beautiful views of the surrounding mountains.
- A main feature of the interior design is a two-story gallery of full height curtain walls to see the surrounding mountains. In addition this space also functions as a community meeting place and overflow space for the cafeteria.

- The design includes a landscaped arrival court that that directs the applicants through the consular access control pavilion through a terraced landscape consular garden then into a waiting room for consular services.
- The campus design also includes a consular visitor parking structure that can accommodate over 150 cars and a standalone U.S. Marine Corps residence.

## CONSTRUCTION

- Construction commenced in October 2010 and the project was completed in June 2014.
- A daily average of 500 Mexican, American, and other workers were involved in construction of the new Consulate General campus, with a cumulative 3 million work hours.



## LANDSCAPE

- The campus is situated on a sloping site allowing for entrances on different levels. Service at the lowest; the main entrance at the next level above and then consular service at the next level. This allows for clear differentiation of functional requirements.
- The buildings on the new campus can be navigated through a landscape of native plants and a tapestry of local stones.
- A mix of native grass and groundcover, inter-planted with native shrubs and trees adapted to the hillside of the Sierra Madre range, was used to minimize the use of landscape irrigation water and maintenance requirement.

## SUSTAINABILITY

- The new Consulate General is targeting Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.
- The project has been designed to achieve an energy cost savings of 31% using the ASHRAE Standard.
- In addition to a 200 kilovolt-ampere photovoltaic array, energy efficiency measures include an improved thermal envelope, high-efficiency fenestration, exterior shading devices, occupancy sensors, daylighting controls, reduced exterior lighting power, energy recovery, demand control ventilation, high efficiency boilers and chillers, variable-speed chilled water pumps, and variable-speed hot water pumps.

- Water conservation strategies include the reduction of potable water usage by 44.6% from a calculated baseline design through the installation of dual-flush, waterless, and low-flow features, as well as the reduction of potable water consumption in irrigation systems by 50.2% from a calculated baseline case.

## ART

- The permanent art collection, curated by the Office of Art in Embassies (AIE), includes works by contemporary American, Mexican-American and Mexican artists for the building's interior spaces. The art incorporates a variety of styles and media including painting, photography, textiles, glass, clay, and mixed media works.
- The general themes are nature and patterns, with cultural connections to Mexico's textile tradition, popular culture of the border area, and Huichol Indian art.
- The collection also features site-specific commissions by Gabriel Dawe and Marela Zacharias.



ADRIAN ESPARZA  
*FAST FORWARD*, 2013



JOANNA POUSETTE DART  
*UNTITLED (CANONES #3)*, 2007-2008



EINAR AND JAMEX DE LA TORRE  
*AGUA FRESCA*, 2011

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