

# U.S. EMBASSY HARARE

## ZIMBABWE

### DEDICATION FACT SHEET

MAY 2019



**Design Architect** AECOM

**Architect of Record** Page

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

**Total Project Budget** \$292M

**Key Dates** Design Start March 5, 2013

Groundbreaking August 6, 2015

Move-In January 12, 2019

Dedication May 2, 2019

## LOCATION

- The new Embassy is located on a 16-acre site in the Bluff Hill area, approximately 6.2 miles northwest of the city center. The multi-building campus includes a chancery building, support services annex, warehouse, utility building, Marine Security Guard Residence, and fitness facilities for the Embassy community.

## DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

- The campus draws inspiration from the traditional culture, climate, and geography of Zimbabwe, articulated in a thoroughly modern way. The site is developed with fluid building forms and features that flow through the gently undulating terrain. The chancery building references the ancient structure of Great Zimbabwe in proportion, design elements, and materials. The receding slope of the exterior walls of the main buildings offer a subtle contrast to the vertically aligned windows, doors, and porticos.
- Red brick, black stone granite, and beige brick pavers emulate earth tones found in southern Africa and form the basis of the color palette throughout the building, with a range of textures from raw stone through brick, wood, polished stone and glass.
- Two staircases feature sustainably harvested and locally sourced Zimbabwe teak.
- Native and adapted plantings are featured throughout the compound. Care was taken to retain a beautiful preserve of native Acacia and Msasa trees - many over 20m in height - in the northeast corner of the site.
- The electrical, water treatment, and fire pump services have been integrated into support buildings and set back from the street so the height and bulk create less impact on the neighboring residences.
- Over 1600 Zimbabwean, American, and other workers were involved in construction of the project.

## SUSTAINABILITY

The project targets LEED® Silver certification. Sustainable features include:

- Daylight harvesting that adjusts office lighting in response to daylight to maintain a pre-set lighting level;
- A narrow building footprint that maximizes natural light;
- Window shading systems to reduce solar glare and heat gain;
- Photovoltaic panels integrated into the parking canopy to offset electricity usage;
- Low-consumption water fixtures, effluent treatment and recycling, and rainwater collection system and reuse;
- Native plantings to minimize irrigation requirements and produce year-round texture, color, and shade.



Stair



Gallery

## ART

- The permanent art collection features twenty-nine works by Zimbabwean and American artists. Each piece was chosen for its quality and ability to promote cross-cultural dialogue through the visual arts.
- Highlights include a dramatic, 2 by 6 meter drawing “Forever’s People” by Robert Pruitt that greets visitors entering the lobby. In the atrium, Yael Kanarek’s suspended painted-metal sculpture “Day & Night” is composed of the words DAY and NIGHT in the nineteen languages spoken in Zimbabwe. Moffat Takadiwa’s “One Letter,” a wall-mounted sculptural work made completely of computer keys, surprises guests in the hallway that leads to the atrium. Various Shona art sculptures decorate the grounds right outside of the cafeteria. These works and others celebrate cultural connections while relating to themes commonly explored by contemporary artists in both countries.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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