In an important symbol of our enduring friendship with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, U.S. Charge d’Affaires Eunice Reddick broke ground on the new U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott today.

The new Embassy will be situated on a 10.5-acre site in the Tevragh Zeina district and will include a chancery, warehouse and maintenance facilities, a utility building, multiple access pavilions, and community facilities. When completed, the new complex will provide Embassy employees with a secure, modern, and environmentally sustainable workplace.

The $181 million project will incorporate numerous sustainable features, including the Department’s first major wind-powered turbine for an American Embassy; emissions-free power through the use of the 50 kW wind turbine and a 185 kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic array; an onsite water treatment plant for irrigation reuse; and light-emitting diode (LED) site lighting. The facility’s design targets Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The design architect is AECOM of Arlington, Virginia, and Integrus Architecture of Spokane, Washington, is the architect of record. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2017 and will be constructed by Caddell Construction Company of Montgomery, Alabama.

Since 1999, as part of the Department’s Capital Security Construction Program, the Department of State’s Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) has completed 111 new diplomatic facilities and has an additional 32 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/](http://overseasbuildings.state.gov/releases/kits/) or contact Christine Foushee at FousheeCT@state.gov or (703) 875-4131.
General Information

- The new U.S. Embassy campus will be situated on a 10.5-acre site in the Tevragh Zeina district of Nouakchott and will include a chancery office building, warehouse and maintenance facilities, a utility building, multiple access pavilions, and community facilities.

- The new Embassy campus and new buildings will provide a secure, modern, and environmentally sustainable platform for diplomacy in Nouakchott.

Design

- Known as the “Place of the Winds,” the capital city of Nouakchott is located on the west coast of Mauritania where the Sahara Desert meets the Atlantic Ocean. With its unique location, the city is susceptible to seasonal winds from the Harmattan – battering it with harsh Sahara sand – and winds from the Atlantic Ocean – bringing in salty and humid air.

- The new Embassy design addresses the corrosive environment with a modern interpretation of the traditional Islamic mashrabiya – an element of Arabic architecture dating back to the Middle Ages that provides screening and shading from the harsh desert sun.

- More than half of the entire façade of the new office building features an intricately designed latticework of perforated copper that serves as a screen wall, providing shading to the building. It allows natural daylight to diffuse into the interior spaces while providing for views outward for occupants inside.

- Copper represents a natural choice as it is one of Mauritania’s leading exports and it is a proven material that can withstand the environmental challenges of this location.
The remaining portions of the new office building as well as the access pavilions and U.S. Marine Corps residence will be clad in limestone and cement plaster with copper accents.

The Chancery will feature a multimedia center to enhance outreach and U.S. public diplomacy efforts. It will become an accessible and inviting location for press conferences, meetings, and presentations.

A gallery space inside the new office building will provide a place for large gatherings, events, lounge areas, and cafeteria seating. Interior public spaces will feature limestone, wood, etched glass, and wood lattice screen walls reminiscent of traditional Islamic architectural elements.

Visitors to the complex will be invited through a gateway plaza and consular garden with integrated site lighting, artwork, and plantings. Exterior walkways and parking areas introduce trees and canopies for shading. Walkway patterns and stones are based on local textile methods and materials.

CONSTRUCTION

The contractor is in the process of mobilizing and full construction will begin in June 2014. The project is expected to be completed by early 2017.

An estimated 600 workers will be involved in the construction of the new Embassy.

SUSTAINABILITY

The new Embassy design targets Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

The new embassy will use emissions-free power from a 185 kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic array, as well as a 50 kW wind turbine - the Department's first major wind-powered turbine for an American Embassy.

The embassy is projected to reduce energy costs by 30% compared against a conventional building. This savings will be accomplished through energy-efficiency measures including light-emitting diode (LED) site lighting; dedicated heat recovery chillers; electric traction elevators; and variable frequency drives from pumps, fans, and motors.
• Water from an on-site wastewater treatment plant will be reused to irrigate site plantings, which are carefully selected to reduce the required amount of irrigation.

**ART**

• The art collection will include works by contemporary artists from the United States and Mauritania.

• One theme of the exhibition will be Oasis, which will provide images full of color, pattern, and texture, that will be welcoming among the earth colors and bright sunlight of the desert.

• The collection will include objects in a variety of media, to be installed in the Chancery and on the grounds of the Embassy.

---

**Contact Information**

Marion Wohlers  
Public Affairs Officer  
+ 222-4525-2660 | WohlersMJ@state.gov

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

United States Dedicates the
New U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott, Mauritania

In an important symbol of our enduring friendship with the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, U.S. Ambassador Larry Andre dedicated the new U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott today.

The new Embassy is situated on a 10.5-acre site in the Tevragh Zeina district and includes a chancery, Marine Security Guard residence, support buildings, and facilities for the embassy community.

The design architect is AECOM of Arlington, Virginia, and the architect of record is Integrus Architecture of Spokane, Washington. The project was constructed by Caddell Construction Co. Inc. of Montgomery, Alabama.

Since 1999, as part of the Department’s Capital Security Construction Program, the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) has completed 138 new diplomatic facilities, with an additional 61 projects now in design or under construction.

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

For further information please contact Christine Foushee at FousheeCT@state.gov, or visit https://overseasbuildings.state.gov/.
General Information

- The new Embassy compound is situated on a 10.5-acre site in the Tevrugh Zeina district and includes a chancery, support buildings and facilities for the embassy community.

- The new Embassy compound and new buildings will provide a secure, modern, and environmentally sustainable platform for U.S diplomacy in Nouakchott.

Design & Construction

- Known as the “Place of the Winds,” the capital city of Nouakchott is located on the west coast of Mauritania where the Sahara Desert meets the Atlantic Ocean. With its unique location, the city is susceptible to seasonal winds from the Harmattan – battering it with harsh Sahara sand – and winds from the Atlantic Ocean – bringing in salty and humid air.

- The design for the new Embassy draws inspiration from Islamic architecture, including Chinguetti, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in central Mauritania. More than half of the entire façade of the new Chancery features a perforated latticework copper, resembling a modern interpretation of a traditional mashrabiya – an element of Arabic architecture dating back to the Middle Ages that provides screening and shading from the harsh desert sun.

- Copper represents a natural choice as it is one of Mauritania’s leading exports and it is a proven material that can withstand Noukachott’s environmental challenges.

- A gallery space provides a place for large gatherings, events, lounge areas, and cafeteria seating.

- Visitors to the Embassy will be invited through a gateway plaza with integrated site lighting, artwork, and plantings. Walkway patterns and stones are based on local textile methods and materials.

- Construction began in June 2014 and was completed in early 2017.

- An estimated 600 workers were involved in the construction of the new Embassy.
**SUSTAINABILITY**

- The new Embassy design is targeting Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

- Emissions-free power is produced from a 185 kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic array, as well as a 50 kW wind turbine - the Department's first major wind-powered turbine for an American Embassy.

- The new embassy is projected to reduce energy costs by 30% through light-emitting diode (LED) site lighting; dedicated heat recovery chillers; electric traction elevators; and variable frequency drives from pumps, fans, and motors.

- Water from an on-site wastewater treatment plant will be reused to irrigate site plantings, which are carefully selected to reduce the required amount of irrigation.

---

**ART**

- The art collection includes works by contemporary artists from the United States and Mauritania.

- One theme of the exhibition is Oasis; works full of color, pattern, and texture, that are welcoming among the earth colors and bright sunlight of the desert. The concept of ‘home’ also runs through the collection, with works inspired by the architectural motifs, geographies, and materials found in both the U.S. and Mauritania.

- The collection includes objects in a variety of media, installed in the representational spaces of the Chancery.

---

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Kimberly Pease  
Public Affairs Officer  
PeaseKA@state.gov

Christine Foushee  
OBO Director of External Affairs  
FousheeCT@state.gov
AMBASSADE DES ETATS-UNIS
NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA
FICHE D’INFORMATION SUR L’INAUGURATION
OCTOBRE 2017

INFORMATION GENERAL

• La nouvelle ambassade est située sur le site de 10,5 acres dans le district de Tevragh Zeina et comprend une chancellerie, des bâtiments de soutien et des installations pour la communauté de l'ambassade.

• Le nouveau complexe de l'ambassade et les nouveaux bâtiments fourniront une plate-forme sécurisée, moderne et écologiquement durable pour la diplomatie américaine à Nouakchott.

ETUDE & CONSTRUCTION

• Connu sous le nom de «Place des vents», la capitale de Nouakchott est située sur la côte ouest de la Mauritanie, où le désert du Sahara rencontre l'océan Atlantique. Avec son emplacement unique, la ville est susceptible aux vents saisonniers de l’Harmattan - le frappant avec le sable sévère du Sahara - et les vents de l'océan Atlantique - apportant de l'air salé et humide.

• La conception de la nouvelle ambassade s'inspire de l’architecture islamique, y compris Chinguetti, classé au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO situé dans le centre de la Mauritanie. Plus de la moitié de la façade entière de la nouvelle Chancellerie dispose d'un treillis en cuivre perforé, ressemblant à une interprétation moderne d'un mashrabiya traditionnel - un élément de l'architecture arabe datant du Moyen Âge qui fournit le criblage et l'ombrage du soleil désert du désert.

• Le cuivre représente un choix naturel puisqu’il s'agit de l'une des principales exportations de la Mauritanie et est un matériau approuvé qui peut résister aux défis environnementaux de Nouakchott.

• Un espace de galerie offre une place pour de grands rassemblements, des événements, des espaces de salon et des sièges de cafétéria.

• Les visiteurs de l’ambassade seront invités à travers une place de passage avec éclairage intégré de site, œuvres d’art et plantations. Les parcours et les pierres sont basés sur des méthodes et des matériaux textiles locaux.

• La construction a débuté en juin 2014 et a été achevée au début de 2017.

• Environ 600 travailleurs ont participé à la construction de la nouvelle ambassade.

L’Architecte d’Etude AECOM
Architecte d’Exécution Integrus
Entrepreneur General Caddell Construction
Chantier 10.5 acres
Cout global du Projet $181 Million
**Durabilité**

- Le nouveau concept de l’ambassade vise la Certification en argent par le Conseil des installations vertes des États-Unis, Leadership en Energie & Environnement Design (LEED®).

- La puissance libre d'émissions est produite à partir d’un réseau photovoltaïque de 185 kilowatts (kW), ainsi que d’une turbine éolienne de 50 kW - la première grande turbine éolienne du département pour une ambassade américaine.

- La nouvelle ambassade devrait réduire de 30% les coûts de l’énergie grâce à l’éclairage du site à diodes électroluminescentes (LED); refroidisseurs de récupération de chaleur dédiés; élévateurs à traction électrique; et variateurs de fréquence à partir de pompes, ventilateurs et moteurs.

- L’eau provenant d’une usine de traitement des eaux usées sur le campus sera réutilisée pour irriguer les plantations du site, qui sont soigneusement sélectionnées pour réduire l’irrigation requise.

---

**L’Art**

- La collection d'art comprend des œuvres d'artistes contemporains des États-Unis et de la Mauritanie.

- Un thème de l'exposition est Oasis; des œuvres pleines de couleur, de motif et de texture, accueillantes parmi les couleurs de la terre et la lumière du soleil. Le concept de «maison» traverse également la collection, avec des œuvres inspirées des motifs, des géographies et des matériaux architecturaux trouvés aux États-Unis et en Mauritanie.

- La collection comprend des objets dans divers médias, installés dans les espaces représentatifs de la Chancellerie.

---

**Contact Information**

- **Kimberly Pease**  
  Public Affairs Officer  
  PeaseKA@state.gov

- **Christine Foushee**  
  OBO Director of External Affairs  
  FousheeCT@state.gov