As part of a task to prepare a design-build RFP, the Design team provided A/E services for design development level documents for a new embassy compound. The new embassy, which is aiming to achieve LEED Silver Certification, will be located in 42,600 m2 (10.5 acres) site close to downtown Nouakchott. This compound will include a approx. 96 875 sq. ft (9,000 m2) Chancery and the following support buildings: a US Marine Corps residence, warehouse /shops building, a facility for Embassy community, a utility building, and three compound access control facilities.

To address Overseas Building Operations (OBO) criteria, the Design team developed a perforated copper screen wall to act as a sunscreen on the Chancery building. The design is a modern day interpretation that makes reference to traditional architecture of this region, while providing passive energy benefits and increasing day-lighting into the building. The Design team also designed the required security measures, while giving the complex an inviting atmosphere. In the desert climate of Nouakchott a challenge was to provide a landscape that is irrigated with reclaimed sewage and storm water with no potable water resources to be used. The Design team developed an underground storm-water retention system that will store rainwater and will utilize condensate from chillers to water vegetation. An on-site wastewater treatment plant will provide class A reclaimed water that will be used for irrigation. To verify that these systems would provide adequate supply, the Design team calculated how much irrigation water would be available and then specified the quantity of plant material accordingly.

Prior to the compound design work, the Design team assisted OBO in the selection of the present site by providing site selection risk and functional analysis that compared the selected site with two other available properties. The Design team engaged an outside cost consultant to develop cost estimates at each submission and also discussed various building products and construction techniques with the consultant in order to keep costs within budget. The Design team participated in a government run value engineering exercise which we reviewed independent cost and value proposals with the client and followed the client's determination as to which we would incorporate into the project. The Design team also created both long- and short-term milestone schedules and worked with the client to maintain them.

NEW EMBASSY COMPOUND Nouakchott, Mauritania

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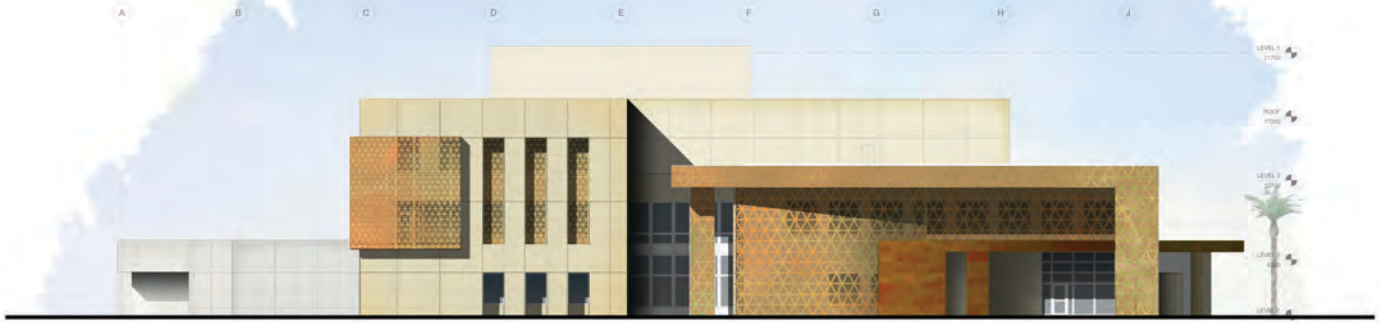
PERSPECTIVE STUDY



ELEVATION STUDY

ELEVATION STUDY

ELEVATION STUDY

PERSPECTIVE STUDY

ELEVATION STUDY

LOWER LEVEL ATRIUM STUDY

UPPER LEVEL ATRIUM STUDY

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