



[Home](#) » [Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs](#) » [Bureau of Public Affairs](#) » [Bureau of Public Affairs: Press Relations](#) » [Press Releases](#) » [Press Releases: 2011](#) » [Press Releases: November 2011](#) » [US Dedicates New Consulate Compound in Dubai, United Arab Emirates](#)

U.S. Dedicates New Consulate Compound in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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Media Note

Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC

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An important symbol of America's commitment to an enduring friendship with the people of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as well as the importance of our bilateral relationship with the UAE Government, the United States dedicated its new consulate in Dubai today. U.S. Ambassador Michael H. Corbin and U.S. Consul General Justin Siberell presided at a ceremony that highlighted the 40-year U.S.-UAE diplomatic partnership, a landmark that coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the UAE. Joining the ceremony was guest of honor Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohamed al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, and Managing Director for the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations' (OBO) Office of Operations, Leo Hession.

The multi-building complex, featuring a Consulate Office Building with an interior atrium and a multimedia center, has quickly become a platform to increase U.S. interaction with the Emirati people. The Consulate's permanent art collection celebrates the exchange of artistic expression between the United States and the UAE through work by contemporary Emirati, American, and regional artists, curated by OBO's Office of Art in Embassies. Occupying a six-acre site in the heart of Dubai's diplomatic enclave on the Dubai Creek, the new facility creates a secure, sustainable, and pleasant workplace for approximately 280 employees.

The new Consulate incorporates numerous sustainable features, most notably solar hot water as well as zero use of potable water for irrigation. The facility is registered with the Green Building Certification Institute and is entering the formal review process with enough credits to earn a LEED Gold rating. B.L. Harbert International of Birmingham, Alabama constructed the project, which was designed by Page Southerland Page of Arlington, Virginia. The \$147 million project generated jobs in both the United States and UAE.

Since the 1999 enactment of the Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act, the Department has moved more than 26,000 people into safer facilities. OBO has completed 87 diplomatic facilities and has an additional 41 projects in design or construction.

OBO's mission is to provide safe, secure, and functional facilities for the conduct of U.S. diplomacy and the promotion of U.S. interests worldwide. These facilities represent American values and the best in American architecture, engineering, technology, sustainability, art, culture, and construction execution. For further information, please visit the OBO website at <http://www.state.gov/obo>, or contact Angelina Rotella at RotellaA@state.gov or (703) 875-6763.

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[Back to Top](#)

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