



## Award of Merit, Government Buildings: U.S. Embassy Compound - Vientiane



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*September 3, 2015*

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Photo Courtesy U.S. State Dept.



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The \$110-million phase one of a project to relocate the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, Laos, has put in place some 7,673 sq meters of office space on a 7.4-acre site south of downtown.

A \$35-million, phase-two project has entailed the remodeling and repurposing of an existing compound in the city's center into a recreational and cultural outreach facility. Phase one finished in October 2014 on schedule and under budget, and phase two is on track for completion in September 2015.

The general contractor, BL Harbert International, was challenged to aim for a U.S. Green Building Council LEED Silver certification, maintain a U.S.-grade safety culture and build to U.S. construction standards on a job in which 95% of the workforce is unfamiliar with these credentials.

Many of Harbert's supervisors and subs responded by learning Lao—some to fluency—to communicate better with the local workers. Further, supervisors successfully trained from scratch many workers to the level of trade proficiency required to perform construction to U.S. industry standards.

### **Project Team**

**Owner:** U.S. Dept. of State, Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations

**Contractor:** BL Harbert International LLC

**Lead Design Firm:** Page

**Design Architect:** Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects

**Structural Engineer:** Ehlert Bryan



## U.S. Embassy Compound–Vientiane

Vientiane, Laos

**MERIT**

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**CONTRACTOR:** BL Harbert International LLC

**LEAD DESIGN FIRM:** Page

**DESIGN ARCHITECT:** Zimmer Gunsul Frasca Architects

**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:** Ehlert Bryan

**CIVIL ENGINEER:** KPFF

**MEP ENGINEER:** Hankins & Anderson

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