



The Aga Khan Award for Architecture

32, chemin des Crêts, 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland, Telephone (22) 98 90 70

1983 ARCHITECTS' RECORD

CONFIDENTIAL

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. Project Title Embassy of the United States of America
- B. Postal Address P.O. Box 1088, Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic

II. PERSONS RESPONSIBLE

(Please give name and address for each. If more than one, please state precise roles and relationships.)

- A. Client/Owner Al Halali Family, Sana'a, Yemen Arab Republic

- B. Architect/Planner Al Mahaidiis Family (all deceased)

- C. Consultants (e.g. Economist, Sociologist, Demographer, Engineer)

- D. Contractor See B above

- E. Master Craftsman Members of the Al Mahaidiis Family

(Please continue overleaf if necessary)

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III. USE

A. Type(s) of Use **Chancery compound and Residence for the American Ambassador**

B. User/Occupant **Government of the United States of America**

1. Occupation

2. Income Level

C. Specify any change(s) between planned and actual use.

IV. PROJECT HISTORY

A. Programme Development

1. Date of Commencement 1936

2. Date of Completion 1936

B. Design

1. Date of Commencement 1936

2. Date of Completion 1936

C. Construction

1. Date of Commencement 1936

2. Date of Completion 1937

D. Date of Project Occupancy 1937 originally
1974 Chancery/1975 Residence

V. PROJECT ECONOMICS

(For Costs, please give amounts and currencies. Specify their date(s) of validity)

A. Total Initial Budget

B. Total Actual Costs 150,000 Maria Theresa Thalers
(original construction)

C. Analysis of Costs 300,000 Yemeni rials (renovations)

1. Land

2. Materials

3. Labour

4. Professional Fees

D. Source(s) of Funds (indicate percentage)

1. Private 90%

2. Public

a. Local 10% (US Govt. funds)

b. National

c. International

(Please continue overleaf if necessary)

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VI. CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

A. Site Area and Characteristics Site is in central Sana'a and is composed of several buildings including the American Embassy chancery and the residence of the United States Ambassador.

B. Total Floor Area of Individual Building(s)

C. Structural System (describe) Structure is traditional Yemeni style. In addition subsequent to the completion of the original structure, renovations were made to convert residential to office space and to modernize the residential areas.

D. Materials (describe and indicate whether locally produced or imported)
(All locally produced)

1. Infill Rock and dirt

2. Rendering of Facades Rock and brick with plaster filigree

3. Floors Stone

4. Ceilings Mud packed over natural beams. Interior surfaces coated with plaster

5. Others (interior and exterior)

E. Site Utilities and Building Services (describe)

Site is served by city electricity and private well.

F. Construction Technology

1. Describe the Basic Method of Construction Traditional Yemeni construction. Stone masonry, mud roofs.

2. Indicate which major building parts were fabricated on-site and which were fabricated elsewhere.
All building parts were fabricated locally.

G. Type of Labour Force (indicate percentage)

1. Skilled 25%

2. Unskilled 75%

H. Origin of Labour Force (indicate percentage)

1. Domestic 100%

2. Imported

(Please continue overleaf if necessary)

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VII. EVOLUTION OF DESIGN CONCEPTS

Please describe the genesis of the project, through programme, design and construction to final and present occupancy.

The current Embassy of the United States of America (Sanaa, YAR) is housed in a building originally constructed in the traditional Yemeni mannner as a private residence. The current Ambassadorial residence was also originally a large private residence suitable for a sizeable family.

For the chancery (working section of the Embassy) the principal design challenge was the conversion of a building designed for residential use to a functionaing office facility. Yemeni homes traditionally have rather small rooms, so interior walls needed to be removed or repositioned.

The residence was converted in 1974 from a traditional Yemeni style house (albeit a very large one) to a more modern residence for the American ambassador and several smaller staff apartments. The conversion included kitchen and bath renovations primarily as well as the addition of a family living area for the ambassador and his family.

The renovation was done cooperatively between the Embassy staff and the owner/landlord. All work was done by Yemeni craftsmen using local materials. Kitchen and bath furnishings were imported either from the US, Europe, or Japan to conform to Western tastes.

The residence houses three staff members in addition to the ambassador's residence. Each of these has been outfitted with a modern kitchen and one or more modern baths.

The chancery houses all the diplomatic staff of the Embassy except the Consular and Administrative sections which are housed in separate buildings on the compound.

Certain design changes were made to the Chancery building to control public access and to assure adequate security. Every effort was made to make these required changes with a minimum disruption to the overall design of the facility.

VIII. SIGNIFICANCE OF PROJECT

In what way is this project important?

Please describe the aspect(s) of the project which you feel represent a particular achievement, for example, the technical, economic, or social achievement, or its response to culture or climate, etc.

The principal significance of this project is its use of a traditional Yemeni structure for a modern office and residential compound without adversely affecting the overall architectural integrity of the buildings and their surroundings.

The entire compound is ringed by a security wall (mud brick) and is landscaped with fruit trees and lawns.

The ambassadorial residence is original in exterior treatment and has been extensively remodeled on the interior. Likewise, the exterior of the chancery has been maintained in essentially traditional style with certain security related changes. In all ways possible, the changes required have been made in a way which is as inconspicuous as possible and detracts as little as possible from the natural lines of the buildings.

(Please continue overleaf if necessary)

IX. DOCUMENTATION

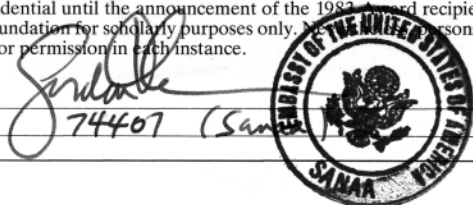
Please indicate the materials you enclose for project documentation:

- _____ 10 Photographs; Color, and Black & White; 8" x 10" (18 x 24 cm).
- _____ 20 Slides; Color, and Black & White; 35 mm.
- _____ Drawings: Community plan, Site plan, Floor plans, Sections, Elevations.
- _____ Project Brief/Programme
- _____ Biographical Data
- _____ Other (Please specify: _____).

Please note: The submission of this Record is a prerequisite to candidacy for the Award. All information contained and submitted with the Form will be kept strictly confidential until the announcement of the 1982 Award recipients. Subsequently, such information may be made available by the Aga Khan Award Foundation for scholarly purposes only. No persons wishing to publish, reproduce or reprint such information shall be required to secure prior permission in each instance.

Authorized Signature _____

Telephone _____



Date _____

Telex _____

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