Journal of Critical Reviews

ISSN- 2394-5125 Vol 7, Issue 8, 2020

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SYRIA

Joud Anas Razzaz[1], Mohamed Shokry[2], Zaki Mallasi[3]

[1,2,3]College of Architecture and Design, Effat University, Qasr Khuzam St., Kilo. 2, Old Mecca Road. P.O. BOX 34689, Jeddah 21478, Saudi Arabia

E-mail: [1]jrazzaz@effatuniversity.edu.sa, [2]mshokry@effatuniversity.edu.sa, [3]zmallasi@effatuniversity.edu.sa

Received: 25.04.2020 *Revised: 30.05.2020* *Accepted: 20.06.2020*

Abstract

Diplomatic buildings have experienced many conceptual changes in the course of modern diplomacy. Initially conceived as literal representations of the history and culture of the guest country, over the years they have come to represent in a more abstract way the values, intentions and self-image of the guest country in addition to its relationship with the host country. In this work, a proposal on a new building design for the Consulate General of Syria at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia is presented. For this work, three case studies related to consulate designs were analysed. The analysed case studies were New US embassy in London, Netherlands Embassy in Berlin and Iran Embassy at Tokyo, Japan. Based on the case study analysis, the estimate area for the proposed new consulate building is 15000 m^2. This consulate will comprise three parts are political section 40%; mixed-use: 25%; and residential 35%. For this work, 3 sites were proposed for development. Based on site evaluation score, site 3, which is located at Al Amir Sultan Road, Jeddah was selected as the proposed development site. The proposed design style of the new consulate has focused on the city of Damascus, the capital of Syria. The new consulate is expected to serve the huge number of citizens that is increasing each year.

Keywords -- consulate, diplomatic office, building, architecture, design

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.31838/jcr.07.08.129

INTRODUCTION

The office or embassy is a portrayal of a nation's open organization in a remote city [1]. It is liable for its own kindred residents who live or live in the host nation. Consulates are different from embassies, an embassy can be said to be the larger version of a consulate [2]. There are two types of departments; first, the Consulate General, which is an enormous and important office, mostly in large urban communities. In addition, the Honorary Consulate or Consular Agency has restricted capacity. It is not supervised by competent consular officials, but by a privileged diplomat [3]. It is the formal public officials of one state in the land of another, serving to help and defend people of the consul's own nation. The most significant obligations of an office incorporate the foundation and renewing of travel papers and other authority records, to take care of their own residents in detainment or capture and to look out for the standard of law and reasonable preliminaries, to report births, passings, relationships, divorces, appropriations, home of the capable expert in the host nation, to deal with military customs, and setting up passage visas for outside residents and educating them about movement, home and work grants [4].

Consuls have been the Roman Republic's greatest judges. Consulate serves as a powerful symbol that provides a country's instantaneous and indelible impression. Such buildings represent the identity of the peoples, culture, and aspirations of a country [5]. Furthermore, the consulate will also provide a residential area for the consul, multi-use large open spaces, indoor restaurants and setting areas [6].

As a major city in Saudi Arabia, Jeddah has 49 foreign consulates, including the Consulate General of India, the Consulate General of Malaysia, the Consulate General of the Philippines, the Consulate General of South Africa, the Honorary Consulate of Sweden, the Consulate General of Bahrain, the Consulate General of Egypt , the Consulate General of Syria and etc [7]. In recent times, the number of visitors to the existing Consulate General of Syria at Jeddah has increased. However, the building is not qualified to serve the huge number of citizens that are increasing each year. Thus, this work is done to propose a new building design for the Consulate General of Syria at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

CASE STUDIES

In this work, three case studies were analyzed for the development of the new consulate. The case studies chosen are:

a. New US embassy, London
b. Netherlands Embassy, Berlin
c. Embassy of Iran

New US embassy, London

New US embassy is located at London, United Kingdom (UK) (Figure 1). It was designed by architect Kieran Timberlake. It has an area of 46451.52 m^2. The architects' objective was to develop a protected, inviting, environmentally friendly and economical plan for the London cityscape structure and site complex that would be appropriate for the United States embassy in the United Kingdom. The structure of the government office was planned in the context of the urbanization and redevelopment of the Nine Elms region. The structure of the U.S. Embassy is a clear, solid, crystalline shape on a four-sided corridor. On one side of the scene, a semi-circular lake was built, and the surrounding area became a recreation centre. The walkways go through the lake and give the gateway to the main entrance. The display region spirals north on the opposite side of the anteroom to create the passageway to the multi-purpose lobby. The government office includes an internal nursery, which spirals vertically to the highest point of the structure. The nurseries were designed to provide an extra vertical walkway and meeting space. The consulate building façade is a coated structure with an external scrim of ethylene tetrafluroethylene (ETFE) pads. The façade was designed to cover up, reduce heat retention, and protect the structure from outside condition, and to act as a warm cradle. The international consulate building has no fences or dividers, but the safety efforts have been incorporated into the finishing. The environmental factors of the structure include a consulate park with a garden area and a defensive obstruction. The consulate has two East-West and passenger roads on a scenic footpath to the south of the Government Office associating the international consulate with the Vauxhall Station. The plane trees

of London will cover up all the passageways. Outside there are mechanical zones, storm cellar management, parking structure slopes and meeting space. The structure highlights advanced daylight and framework control, closed-circle water and coordinated evaporative cooling cycle framework, encapsulated vitality and carbon-free offices to reduce costs and reduce environmental impact. In order to use sunlight for the generation of solar power, an enormous photovoltaic framework was introduced on the roof and on the exterior of the structure. In addition, a 30 m border area around the Embassy building gives the residents a sheltered cushion to close.

Figure 1. New US embassy, London

Netherlands Embassy, Berlin

Netherlands Embassy is located at Berlin, Germany (Figure 2). It was designed by architect Rem Koolhaas. The embassy has a build up area of 4800 m^2. The architect met the requirements by finishing the square edge with a plate and stopping the defiant volume of the ace through the entrance. The visuals of the structure were a significant part of the plan. The guest faces a spectrum of urban scenes in transit. The unobstructed size of the site and the broad program of the customer required shaped the structure. The plan depended on the creation of spaces to cover capacity, the potential for various jobs in explicit zones, and the establishment of innovation. In addition, the structure of the international embassy was to act naturally in an appropriate manner and close to its condition in order to improve the well-being of the structure. Then again, the continuous winding development incorporates eight stories from the government office and shapes the inner correspondence of the structure referring to the Guggenheim Museum in New York. The development brings the guest to the specific circumstance: the Spree River, the well-known TV tower, the consulate's park and the dividers. The structure consists of a translucent 3D square and an L-shaped plate covering it on different sides. The ultra-level plaque, used by the workers' offices, isolated about 10 cubic meters of the structure and was joined by four carriers. Besides, this structure is not a façade, but it still contains a passageway on both sides: Rolandufer Street for motor vehicles and people on foot from Kloterstrasse. All areas are sorted inside the 3D shape along the incline course, seeking to broaden the open space. The winding development called Das Trajekt infiltrates the crate and leaves behind and down through the eight stories, characterizing the inner correspondence that joins the stage with the slopes. The way fills up as a fundamental course of ventilation, bringing natural air to the workplace. The main building is basically a slope that spirals upward through eleven stunned floors. The offices of this government office include a courtyard, a library, a meeting room, an amphitheater, a gym, a café and a patio.

Figure 2. Netherlands Embassy, Berlin

Embassy of Iran

Embassy of Iranis located at Tokyo, Japan (Figure 3). It was designed by architect Hossein Sheikh-Zeineddin. This building has a build area of 2995m^2.Iran's Tokyo government office adjusts some of Iran's engineering qualities to Japan's innovation trend as a declaration of growing relations between the two nations. The basic character of the structure is the need to meet two apparently conflicting objectives: the availability of the consular area, which is available to general society, and the endurance of the political zone. The light roof drifting over the straight passage divider, next to the sunlit patio, is thought to be the inviting and welcoming parts of the structure, even though the overwhelming rock-clad dividers give fundamental security and division. A few structural parts were planned as representative understandings of the components of Iranian engineering. These are the divider and overhead bar adjacent to the main steps, the court of the chamber and its water highlights, and the stone divider past the coated plot. The divider and shaft is a token of Iran's adobe engineering and secure pathways. The court of the chamber is a translation of a traditional courtyard with a focal lake. The chamber court is an understanding of the usual patio with a focal lake, and the stone divider, with its recessed openings, was erected by the openings of the conventional mosque walled in areas. The ground floor has separate passageways to the open department area and the limited conciliatory section. The regulatory capacity of the political area is housed in the upper floors, while the aid segments and stylized spaces are located at the level of the storm cellar. The light roof, which glides over a straight-lined divider at the passageway next to the sunlit courtyard, was considered to be the inviting and welcoming parts of the structure, while the overwhelming stone dividers provide the necessary security and detachment. The harmony between these two pieces of work, softness and openness from one perspective and invulnerability to another, shaped the fundamental character of the structure.

Figure 3. Embassy of Iran, at Tokyo, Japan

PROGRAM ASSUMPTION AND SPACE DETAILS

For the proposed new Consulate General of Syria complex, the estimated site gross area is 15000 m². In addition, the outdoor recreation area is estimated to be 2000 m². The building will comprise about 6 floors. Table 1 shows the zone division of the proposed new building. The proposed new consulate will comprise of political section 40%; mixed-use: 25%; and residential 35%.

Table 1. Space details

Zone	Total Area (m²)
Political section	3134
Residential section	4472
Mixed use	3716
Service area	3678
Total area	15000

PROPOSED SITE

Proposed site: Site 1

For Site 1 (Figure 4), This site is located at AlmadinaAlmunawara Road, Muhammad Ibn Abdul Aziz district. This site has an estimated area of 17500 m².

Proposed site: Site 2

For Site 2 (Figure 5), it's located at Al Amir Sulatn Road. This site has an area of 21000m².

Proposed site: Site 3

For Site 3 (Figure 6), the location of this site at Al Amir Sulatn Road. This site has an area of 18800 m².

Figure 4. Site 1

Figure 5. Site 2

Figure 6. Site 3

SITE EVALUATION AND ANALYSIS

In this work, 3 sites for development were proposed. Thus, site evaluation was done to select the most suitable site. Site evaluation was done using site criteria. Table 2 shows the site evaluation for site 1, site 2 and site 3. Based on Table 2, site 3 has attained the highest score of 84.5. On the other hand, site 1 exhibited score of 77.5 and site 2 exhibited score of 77. Thus, based in the criteria score, site 3 was selected as the proposed development site. The site is located at the intersection between two main roads, Al Amir Sultan and Alrawdah Street. In terms of climate, Jeddah holds its warm temperature in winter, which can run from 15 °C (59 °F) at 12 PM to 25 °C (77 °F) toward the evening. Summer temperatures are blistering, frequently breaking the 40 °C (104 °F) mark toward the evening and dropping to 30 °C (86 °F) at night. Precipitation in Jeddah is commonly scanty, and for the most part happens in modest quantities in December. There have additionally been a few eminent episodes of hail. Substantial rainstorms are normal in winter. In terms of accessibility, this site can be accessed by two major roads. Furthermore, there are few major landmarks around this site, which is King Faisal specialist hospital and research center, park, Saudi city compound and Bin Seleman building. Furthermore, the site is surrounded mostly by residential areas which make the consulate more secured.

Table 2. Site evaluation

Criteria	Grade	Site 1	Site 2	Site 3
Density	5	2	3.5	3
Orientation aspects	5	2.5	3.5	3
Air circulation	4	3	3.5	3.5
Privacy	10	8	6	7.5
Noise	8	6	5	7
Views	5	2	4	3
Amenities	6	4	4	4
Future expansion	8	6.5	6.5	7
Security	15	13	12	14
Accessibility	10	8.5	8	9.5
Adaptability	5	4	3	4
Neighbourhood compatibility	10	9	8	9
Aesthetic features	8	6	7	6.5
Total	100	77.5	77	84.5

PROJECT DESIGN

Because of the increase of Syrian citizens in Saudi Arabia, they should be provided with the new consulate to accommodate the number and meet their needs. The project design style will focus on the city of Damascus, the capital of Syria and one of the oldest cities in the world of culture. Figure 7 to Figure 10 shows the several perspective views of the proposed new consulate. The building character expresses representational and office building nature. Furthermore, the nature of the building is compatible to the host country. The new building provides easy vehicle access and egress with adequate visitor provision and staff parking along with the necessary building service access. Furthermore, shelter is provided for protection during inclement weather at the main entrance. On the other hand, the building has incorporated easy and direct access and egress for pedestrians, including provisions for physically handicapped people. The significance of this project is it has maintained openness with its surrounding context. In addition, the new consulate has public and representative spaces that are large enough to accommodate up to 350 people, which is essential for the consulate's many representative and cultural events. In addition, the consular section is divided into three sections, which are Syrian citizen services, immigrant visas, and non-immigrant visas. It is the area most frequently visited by the people who come every day to the

Embassy. On the other hand, the building also has diplomatic and government departments. This is the Consulate's business area, which performs various governmental functions on behalf of the Syrian Government. The build has also incorporated the Consulate Business and Employee Support Area. This department provides support to the staff of the approximately 70 sections housed in the consulate, while also overseeing the daily operation of the consulate. In addition, the build has also allocated employee recreation and social areas. These recreational space and facilities are essential for employees of the consulate. In terms of sustainability, the floor plan was designed with optimum daylight balance and open space. The design of the building will maximize the daylight usage to reduce the need for electrical lighting. In addition, the building has under floor air distribution. Furthermore, solar panels are fitted on the roof of the building to generate reusable power. In addition, the roof rainwater collection is incorporated for cooling systems and irrigation.

Figure 7. Overall view of the proposed consulate

Figure 8. Back view

Figure 9. Main entrance

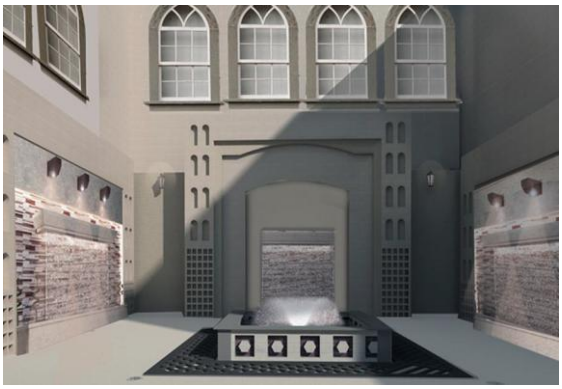

Figure 10. Main courtyard

CONCLUSION

This work has proposed the development of a new Consulate General of Syria at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.The proposed new consulate building requires an estimated area of15000 m^2. This new consulate is proposed to replace the existing consulate due to its heavy usage among the visitors. The new consulate will convey the collective identity of the Syrian society. Furthermore, this new consulate will create an understanding, and cultural exchange between two countries, of Syria and Saudi Arabia.

REFERENCES

1. Zampagni F. Unpacking the Schengen Visa Regime. A Study on Bureaucrats and Discretion in an Italian Consulate. Journal of Borderlands Studies. 2016 Apr 2;31(2):251-66.
2. Kiely J. The Function of Luxury: Visual and Material Abundance in Minoru Yamasaki's US Consulate in Kobe and Federal Science Pavilion in Seattle (1954–62). InArts 2018 Oct 10 (Vol. 7, No. 4, p. 65). Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute.
3. Dickinson J. Articulating an Indian diaspora in South Africa: The Consulate General of India, diaspora associations and practices of collaboration. Geoforum. 2015 May 1;61:79-89.
4. Carroll FM. Consular Affairs. The Encyclopedia of Diplomacy. 2018:1-7.
5. Parsaee M, Motealleh P, Parva M. An investigation into the former consulate of Britain as one of the first samples of modern architecture in Iran. HBRC Journal. 2017 Apr 1;13(1):61-71.
6. Seo M. Architecture as Mediation: The Korean Pavilion at the Montreal Expo′ 67. Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering. 2017 May 15;16(2):271-8.
7. Niblock T, editor. State, Society and Economy in Saudi Arabia (RLE Saudi Arabia). Routledge; 2015 Feb 20.