acg

anderson cooper group architects
A Professional Corporation

DIPLOMATIC

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Our Philosophy

ACG Architects is founded on the belief that a successful project begins with the needs, priorities, and desires of a client, be they the future resident or builder looking to develop a property. Through our overlay of experience, teamwork, and creative problem solving, unique and desirable solutions evolve. ACG is comprised of architects who have a strong desire to rise to the challenges of diplomatic work and we recognize the critically important and fundamental need for a mutual comfort level in the architect-client relationship. Our repeated experience is that the finest results and the highest levels of client satisfaction come from successful working relationships.

The work of ACG is best characterized as distinctive, with a deliberate diversity of style. This diversity exemplifies the individuality of each client with particular aspirations for each home. Providing our clients with focused service is our strength. In short, we listen. We believe that our role as architects is to provide a catalyst for ideas in the design process, not to impose or force preconceived notions of design. It is our preference to work in close collaboration with the builder and their landscape architect and other important consultants from the inception of the project to create a team of problem solvers all with the common goal of, at a minimum, achieving the aesthetics, budget, and schedule objectives of the client.

The scale of our work ranges from modest additions and renovations to newly built projects. While the individuality of our designs is clearly evident in a review of our work, the projects collectively draw from our breadth of technical proficiency and years of experience. We believe that all good design must have an inherent response to function, and a respect for proper use of materials and building systems. This approach allows functional and distinctive designs to emerge while avoiding premium costs typically associated with custom work.

These foundations on which ACG Architects has built a reputation have supported our growth, providing a comprehensive range of architectural, master planning and interior design services, including zoning analysis, site selection, feasibility studies, programming and user analysis, design, construction documents, project management, construction administration, and construction management.

ACG Architects can bring proven professional skills to your project to creatively solve your problems.

BRITISH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
Washington D.C.

Total renovation of the Ambassador's Residence which is a major part of the original 1920 Sir Edwin Lutyens design. The project involved the integration of state of the art systems while respecting the historic context of the building fabric and creating new spaces, bedrooms, and bathrooms. Experience gained in lead paint and asbestos abatement, fibrous plaster replication, forensic investigation of integrated plumbing and rainwater systems.

BRITISH EMBASSY CHANCERY
NUMEROUS PROJECTS
Washington, DC

Completed several projects at the Chancery over the course of many years including exterior security upgrades, interior office renovations on several floors, main lobby, cafeteria and data center.

BRITISH EMBASSY CHANCERY OFFICES
5th FLOOR
Washington, D.C.

Project consisted of the renovation of 10,400 square feet of interior office space into a more collaborative, open office environment utilizing full height glazing to divide required private areas. Project management included consistent communication with representatives of the British Embassy to develop the appropriate design which accommodated strict programmatic requirements.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES EMBASSY
Washington, D.C.

New Consulate building for existing Embassy compound. Scope of work includes new perimeter security measures, retractable bollards, natural stone pier fencing, entry fountain and controlled access gates.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES CHANCERY ANNEX
Washington, D.C.

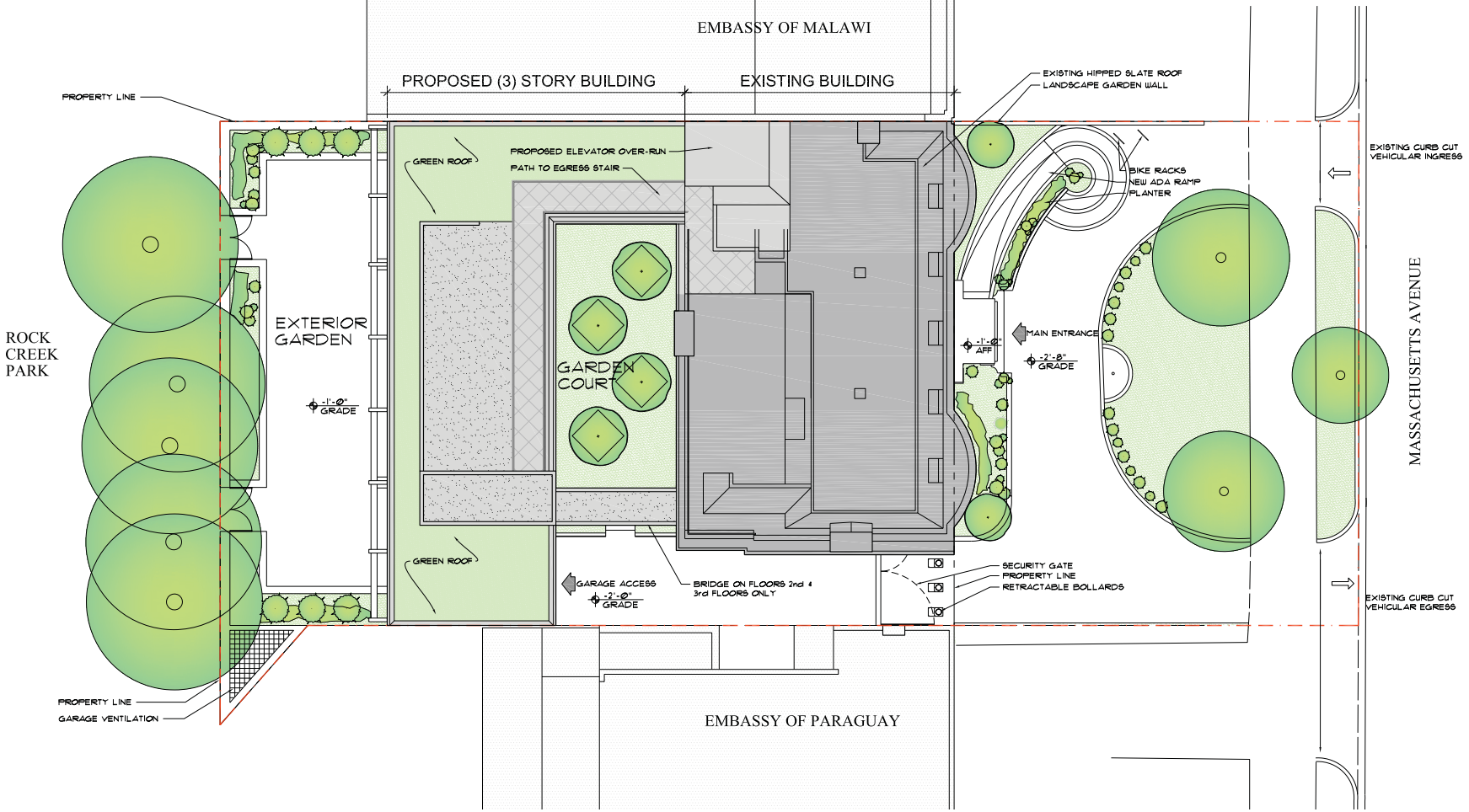
A complete historic renovation of an existing building as well as new addition with underground parking beneath both new and existing buildings with an auto lift. Renovation included masonry stabilization, floor leveling, new energy efficient windows, new HVAC system, new elevator, upgraded utilities, finishes, appliances, fixtures and lighting throughout. The three-story addition overklooks Rock Creek Park and has been reviewed and approved by The State Department, Office of Foreign Missions BZA, DC Commission of Fine Arts, DC office of Planning, DC Historic Review, DC Public Open Space, and DC DOT.

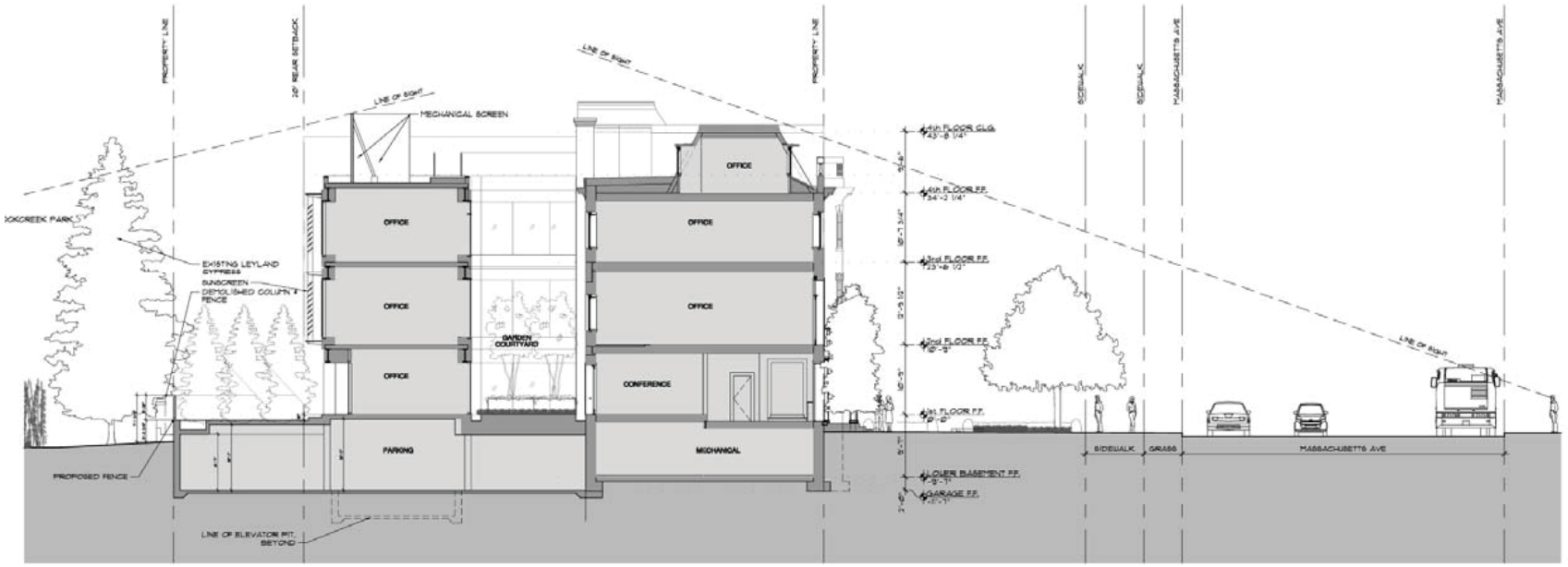
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES CHANCERY ANNEX
Washington, D.C.

The interior was designed for maximum light penetration into occupied spaces and enhanced views to building exteriors. Interior walls forming circulation paths in the building were designed as patterned glass partitions to improve views through the space and shared light available to the occupants.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES CHANCERY ANNEX
Washington, D.C.

As part of the Foreign Missions Board of Zoning Appeals approval process, ACG had develop detailed 3D models, sections and other illustrations to convey the design intent and minimal impact on the neighborhood. ACG was successful in these efforts as demonstrated by the project photographs on the previous pages.





1 AP3.1 **SECTION**

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES CHANCERY ANNEX
Washington, D.C.

EMBASSY OF CANADA
Washington, D.C.

ACG was selected through an open RFP process to provide strategic planning for future possible interior and technology upgrades to their Auditorium, Event Spaces, Media Center, Meeting Rooms and Board Rooms.

EMBASSY OF KENYA
Washington, D.C.

Through an open RFQ process, ACG was selected to perform feasibility studies and develop a scope of work for the renovation of the Chancery, the Ambassador's residence and four other diplomatic residences in the District of Columbia

EMBASSY OF CHILE
Washington, D.C.

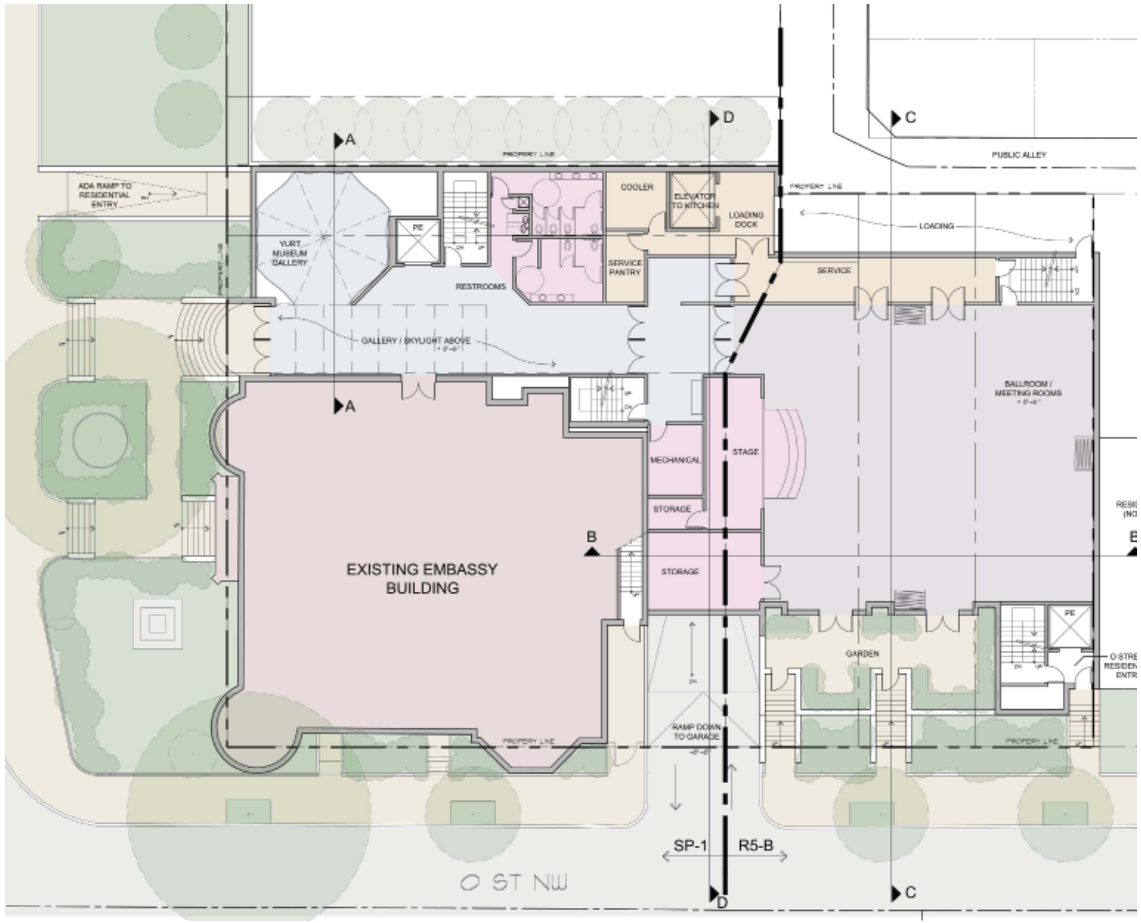
Forensic investigation and remediation recommendations for water leak sources and structural cracks to the building which is on the National Registry of Historic Places.The embassy is in the Massachusetts Avenue Historic District.

EMBASSY OF HAITI
Washington, D.C.

ACG provided design services for renovation and repairs to their existing embassy.The embassy is in the Massachusetts Avenue Historic District.

EMBASSY OF KAZAKHSTAN
Washington, D.C.

ACG provided a concept design study for the expansion of the existing Embassy. The Embassy property is located in two historic districts. The scope of the concept design included a five story addition and a 3,500 square foot ballroom addition with underground parking.



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EMBASSY OF KAZAKHSTAN
Washington, D.C.

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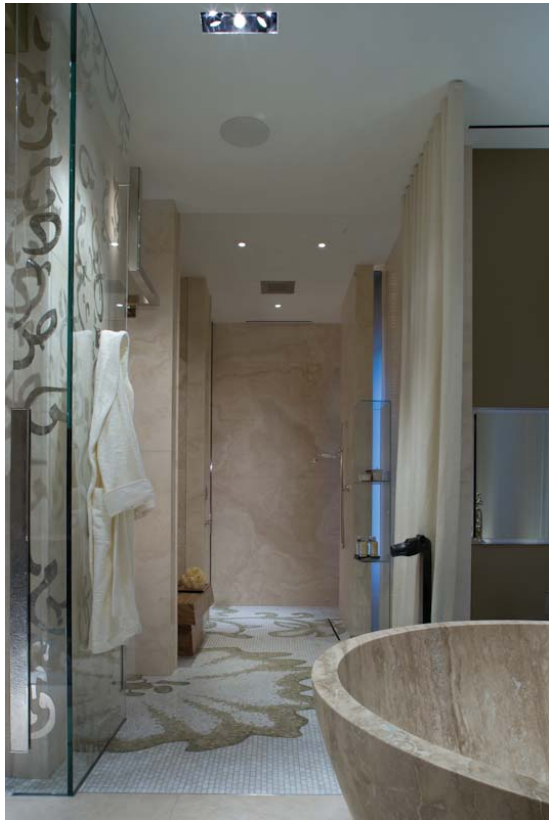

RIVER VIEW - PHASE 1
Northern Virginia

Situated over a hundred feet above and adjacent to the Potomac River, this 20,000 square foot diplomatic residence has been completely renovated. Phase 1 work included redesigned hardscape and landscape features, gate house, reconfigured interior spaces, work-out room, private study, salt water reef aquarium, media and billiard space with state of the art sound system, outdoor kitchen, reconfigured glass tiled outdoor pool with infinity edge and laminar jet features that overlook the river, as well as new AV, security and mechanical upgrades throughout. ACG worked closely with renowned interior designers Tony Chi and Joan Behnke.

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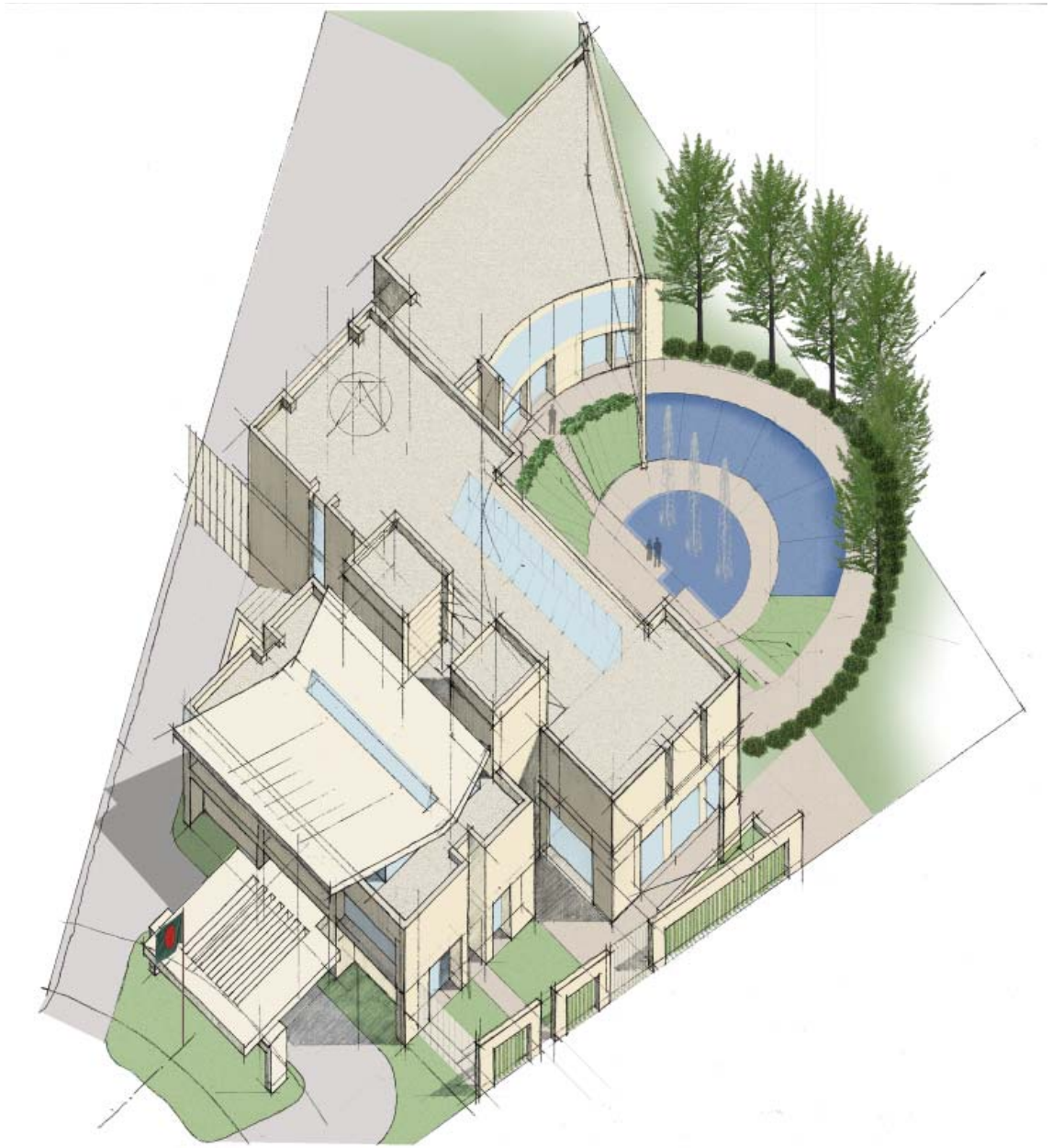
RIVER VIEW - PHASE 2
Northern Virginia

Situated over a hundred feet above and adjacent to the Potomac River, this 20,000 square foot diplomatic residence has been completely renovated. Phase 2 work includes the construction of a 40-foot high gambian wall to create 3,500 square feet of additional outdoor landscape and patios on this steeply sloped site. A cantilevered pool and spa addition will overlook the Potomac, and a new 4,500 square foot wing addition will provide additional private living spaces for the family more remote from the semi-public main spaces typical of the programmatic requirements of a diplomatic residence.

DIPLOMATIC RESIDENCE
McLean, Virginia

A 23,000 square foot residence on three levels for a crown prince's court. The program included 12 bedrooms, multiple large entertaining spaces, commercial kitchen and gym. The site's existing slope created the need for a custom engineered steel trussed earth retention wall. The contemporary design featured a central light well allowing maximum daylightings through all three levels of the building.



BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE
Washington, D.C.

ACG was one of two architects invited to submit for an RFP for the new residence of the Bangladeshi Ambassador.

ACG Architects Team Projects

The following is a listing and summary of the numerous and varied services we have provided to other countries throughout the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

United Arab Emirates Ambassador's Residence
McLean, Virginia

Located 200 feet above and overlooking the Potomac River, the total renovation of a 25,000 sf existing residence has recently been completed. Work included exterior and interior security measures, all new finishes and furniture, AV systems, new kitchen and bathrooms, feature lighting, HVAC systems, emergency generator, new pool with laminar jets and BBQ, integrated media touch panels, a large aquarium and a koi pond. The design includes a strong emphasis on the integration of exterior landscape and water features. A coordinated approach to project management allowed ACG and the builder to complete the work ahead of schedule.

Iraq Ambassador's Residence and Chancery
Washington, D.C.

Survey, feasibility study, and complete renovation of the previously abandoned Residence and Chancery. Including upgrades to security and AV capabilities. Studies included relative value scenarios of demolition/ renovation and new construction. The historic Chancery options included permutations of below grade parking and complex issues of ADA compliance. Estimated cost of each project: $8M for the new residence and $9M for the Chancery with Consular addition.

United Arab Emirates Chancery Annex
Washington, D.C.

A complete historic renovation of both the Interior and Exterior, including masonry stabilization, floor leveling, new energy efficient window replacement and HVAC systems, addition of an elevator serving all levels, all new upgraded utilities, finishes, appliances, fixtures and lighting throughout. Parking will be provided below grade via an auto lift, which will allow landscaping at grade level. A three story addition is proposed, overlooking Rock Creek Park which will be reviewed by The State Department, Office of Foreign Missions BZA, DC Commission of Fine Arts, DC office of Planning, DC Historic Review, DC Public Open Space, and DC DOT.

United Arab Emirates Embassy
Washington, D.C.

New Consulate building for existing Embassy compound. Scope of work includes new perimeter security measures, retractable bollards, natural stone pier fencing, entry fountain and controlled access gates.

British Ambassador's Residence
Washington, D.C.

Total renovation of the Ambassador's Residence which is a major part of the original 1920 Sir Edwin Lutyens design. The project involved the integration of state of the art systems while respecting the historic context of the building fabric and creating new spaces, bedrooms, and bathrooms. Experience gained in lead paint and asbestos abatement, fibrous plaster replication, forensic investigation of integrated plumbing and rainwater systems.

British Embassy Chancery Office Pilot Project
Washington, D.C.

Pilot project experiment in a 4,500 sf office area where the traditional, polarized, multi-office space design was converted into a more collaborative, open office environment utilizing full height glazing to divide required private areas. Project management included consistent communication with representatives of the British Embassy to develop the appropriate design which accommodated strict programmatic requirements. Full project involvement included survey, build-out architectural and interior design, construction documents and construction administration.

British Embassy Chancery 3rd floor Offices
Washington, D.C.

8,300sf renovation of interior office space into a more collaborative, open office environment utilizing full height glazing to divide required private areas, based on the pilot project success. Project management included consistent communication with representatives of the British Embassy to develop the appropriate design which accommodated strict programmatic requirements. Full project involvement included survey, build-out architectural and interior design, construction documents and construction administration.

ACG Architects Team Projects

British Embassy Chancery Building Building Security Upgrade
Washington, D.C.
Design study for new custom, security-grade window systems, construction documents and construction administration for the main office building on the British Embassy compound. The total exterior security upgrade involved the blast engineering design of a custom infill operable insulated window and wall panel system replacing outdated windows over slate faced walls. This building is the political section of the Embassy, responsible for political relations between the British Government and the US Administration and Congress.

British Embassy Entrance and Rotunda
Washington, D.C.
Upgrade and renovation of the original entrance and rotunda to a multi functional space with AV presentation capability. Acoustic refinements were also made to the space, as were upgrades to the bathrooms and the new construction of a coffee bar.

British Embassy Guardhouse and Consular Building
Washington, D.C.
Design study for new custom, security-grade window systems, construction documents and construction administration for the diplomatic office building on the British Embassy grounds.

British Embassy Chancery 5th floor Offices
Washington, D.C.
10,400 sf renovation of interior office space into a more collaborative, open office environment utilizing full height glazing to divide required private areas, based on the pilot project success. Project management included consistent communication with representatives of the British Embassy to develop the appropriate design which accommodated strict programmatic requirements. Full project involvement included survey, build-out architectural and interior design, construction documents and construction administration.

British Embassy Chancery 2nd floor Offices
Washington, D.C.
5,000sf renovation of interior office space into a more collaborative, open office environment utilizing full height glazing to divide required private areas, based on the pilot project success. Project management included consistent communication with representatives of the British Embassy to develop the appropriate design which accommodated strict programmatic requirements. Project involvement included survey, build-out architectural and interior design, and construction documents.

British Embassy Chancery Data Center
Washington, D.C.
2,800sf renovation of interior storage room space into a state of the art, fully self-sufficient comprehensive data center with dual redundancy. Project management included consistent communication with representatives of the British Embassy abroad to ensure the critical data systems and related mechanical and electrical systems met their requirements, amid multiple design changes. Project involvement included survey, build-out architectural design, construction documents and construction administration.

British Embassy Cafeteria
Washington, D.C.
Design upgrade and renovation of the cafeteria function for the Embassy personnel.

The Kuwait Embassy and Chancery
Washington, D.C.
ACG were selected from several pre-qualified firms to provide professional services for the new construction and renovation at the current location. Work has yet to begin, although a thorough understanding of the daily operation was a pre-requisite of our selection.

Embassy of Botswana
Washington, D.C.
Design and Construction services for renovation, repairs and security upgrade of building ground floor, including integration of CCTV and monitoring.

ACG Architects Team Projects

Embassy of Haiti
Washington, D.C.
Design services for renovation and repairs.

Embassy of Canada
Washington, D.C.
ACG was selected through an open RFP process to provide strategic planning for future possible interior and technology upgrades to their Auditorium, Event Spaces, Media Center, Meeting Rooms and Board Rooms.

Embassy of Chile
Washington, D.C.
Forensic investigation and remediation recommendations for water leak sources and structural cracks

Embassy of Belize
Washington, D.C.
Forensic investigation and remediation recommendations for water leak sources and structural cracks

Embassy of Australia
Washington, D.C.
ACG in conjunction with a security consultant and landscape architect prepared a comprehensive exterior security upgrade which successfully integrated surveillance with the landscape. Electronics detection technologies and security countermeasures were supplemented with bollards and a guard house to achieve an appropriate threat level response.

Embassy of Kazakhstan
Washington, D.C.
ACG provided a concept design study for the expansion of the existing Embassy. The Embassy property is located in two historic districts. The scope of the concept design included a five story addition and a 3,500 square foot ballroom addition with underground parking.

Embassy of New Zealand
Residence and Chancery
Washington, D.C.
ACG provided a scope definition for renovation, egress studies, elevator analysis, a critical service review and interior design services. The properties are located in a historic districts.

Embassy of Zambia
Residence and Chancery
Washington, D.C.
ACG prepared a scope of work documents and cost estimates for interior and exterior renovation projects for both buildings. The Chancery and Residence property is located in a historic districts.