

U.S. Diplomacy Center Pavilion Awarded as the Best Government Building in 2017

Published March 2017



Recently, ENR MidAtlantic announced that the U.S. Diplomacy Center Pavilion, designed by Beyer Blinder Belle and constructed by Gilbane construction, was awarded as the Best Government/ Public Building in 2017. Over sixty projects were nominated and were evaluated on the ability of the project team to overcome challenges, contribution to the industry and community, safety and construction, and design quality. The building also received the U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary's Award for Excellence in 2017.

From 2011–2017, CxGBS performed Holistic Commissioning® for the United States Diplomacy Center in Washington, DC. The U.S. Diplomacy Center project was a new, two-phase addition to the Harry S. Truman building in Washington, DC. The building is owned by the General Services Administration and houses the U.S. Department of State. The U.S. Diplomacy Center is the first museum and education center dedicated to telling the story of diplomacy and the men and women who work 24/7 to serve U.S. national interests.

Phase 1 of the project included the glass pavilion and the first exhibit hall, which houses interactive exhibits about international relations. Interestingly, the pavilion is reported to have 23,339 SF of glass walls, 17,000 SF of Tennessee pink marble, 53,755 SF of sheet metal, 15,578 foundation support piles, and 5,232 cubic yards of excavation soil removed. Phase 2 of the project included two additional halls—one featuring diplomatic history and another to be utilized as an educational center.

CxGBS commissioned the following systems from pre-design through the construction and warranty phases: building enclosure, HVAC, HVAC controls, plumbing, electrical, lighting controls, security, fire protection, data, and the A/V and interactive displays. Specifically, CxGBS added value by identifying and tracking to resolution the membrane waterproofing that was not appropriately lapped and also thermal bridging between the exterior and interior heated spaces. Additionally, CxGBS optimized demand-controlled ventilation strategies for appropriate spaces in the building.

Ronald Lucas, Project Manager for the General Services Administration Public Building Service, said the following: "I am pleased to speak to CxGBS's outstanding work. They are providing excellent services which have benefitted the project in many ways. Their interactions with the project's teams have resulted in an enhanced design architecturally and in terms of the quality of user environment; and their comprehensive and technical design document reviews and subsequent follow-up have substantially improved the design product."

Congratulations to CxGBS for their collaborative commissioning services on this award-winning project!