

Friends of Art and Preservation in Embassies

The Friends of Art and Preservation in Embassies (FAPE) is a private, nonprofit organization established in 1986 by Leonore Annenberg, Wendy W. Luers, the late Lee Kimche McGrath, and Carol Price to enhance the representation of American culture in U.S. Embassies across the globe. FAPE is led by Chairman Jo Carole Lauder and President Ann L. Gund. Director is Jennifer A. Duncan.

Working closely with the State Department's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations, the Washington, D.C.-based organization supports the exhibition and preservation of fine and decorative art in many of the country's 260 embassies and consulates. In acquiring artwork for the embassies, FAPE takes care to recognize and respect local culture and customs, while providing examples of the best of America's cultural heritage.

FAPE's aim is to create meaningful and appropriate permanent collections of art for every embassy. Through its work, the organization enables art to serve as a cultural ambassador, promoting freedom of expression and encouraging international understanding between individuals and among nations.

The Architect's guiding criteria in designing the new American Embassy were: the need to create a facility that has no negative impact on the Msasani area environment and infrastructure while making every effort to conserve power, fuel, and water—all relatively expensive in Tanzania; the appropriateness of the compound with reference to its location on Old Bagamoyo Road; and the need to provide an inviting facility equally welcoming to both employees and users.

Complementary to the extensive service of almost 10,000 indigenous trees, shrubs, flowers, and plants is a spread of sidewalks, seating areas, and an asphalt road that encircles the entire compound. There are lots of opportunities for meditative walks and outdoor seating areas. Among the 10,000 trees, plants, and vegetation are some very special trees—one of the oldest Baobob trees in Dar es Salaam, an extremely large and decorative Mango tree, and a Rain tree.

The entire ceremonial entry drive is lined with trees—palm trees on the exterior half and flame trees on the interior half. These provide shade to visitors while serving as a dramatic accent when in bloom.

In the year and one-half since the site was first occupied, the “residents” have taken the property as their own, and adapted it to meet their needs. One particularly impressive feature is the development of a series of gardens and walking paths around the property and the installation of a series of wind chimes throughout. Now, when one walks from the entrance gates to the chancery, or around the perimeter, one hears the gentle lilt of bells, chimes, and gongs that evoke serenity amidst the hubbub of workday life.

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



The Dedication of and Inspiration for the Sculpture “Untitled (2004)”

by

Elyn Zimmerman

Thursday, June 17th, 2004

Chancery Main Entrance

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA IN TANZANIA

Program

Elyn Zimmerman

Welcoming Remarks..... J. Michael Korff
Counselor of Embassy

Friends of Art and Preservation in Embassies: Why?
Jennifer A. Duncan
Director, FAPE

Video Presentation

An Artist at Work: Elyn Zimmerman

Questions & Answers Elyn Zimmerman

-- Adjourn to the entrance of the Chancery --

Introduction of Guest of Honor Michael S. Owen
Chargé d'Affaires

Remarks by Guest of Honor Hon. Kleist Sykes
Lord Mayor of Dar es Salaam

Dedication of the Sculpture Lord Mayor Sykes

-- Refreshments --

"From our new Embassy today, we rededicate ourselves to broadening and deepening our engagement with the 35 million citizens of Tanzania. We will use this wonderful facility, one of the highest-tech, most secure Embassies in the world, as a platform from which to strengthen even further the ties that bind the American and Tanzanian peoples together. But as we move forward in that effort, let us never forget the men and women, Tanzanian and American, who served proudly, bravely, and forthrightly, here and paid a price in blood for the ideals that both our nations hold dear. It is to them that we dedicate this building today." -- Under Secretary of State Grant Green on the occasion of the dedication of the New American Embassy in Dar es Salaam, March 4, 2003



Elyn Zimmerman is a New York-based artist who works in a variety of media. Her photographs of archaic structures and ruins worldwide serve as a personal

library of images that inform and stimulate her work as a sculptor of large scale sculptures, primarily in stone. Ms. Zimmerman has held solo exhibitions in museums and galleries in the United States and abroad and has participated in numerous group exhibitions. Her work is represented in private, public, and corporate collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Los Angeles Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and Chase Manhattan Bank among others. Ms. Zimmerman's large-scale outdoor projects for private and public institutions include works at the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C., and O'Hare International Center in Chicago, as well as a fountain memorial for the victims of the 1993 World Trade Center bombing which was destroyed in the 2001 attack.

Located on a 14-acre site, the Embassy building is clad in African stone. It is graced by gardens and an entrance court ending in a long, rectangular water trough -- "The Runnel" -- that spills into a small pool. Ms. Zimmerman's dramatic sculpture, *Untitled* (2004), groups six related geometric forms around the granite-rimmed pool, which she has enlarged for the work. Made of African red granite, each of the six elements measures eight feet tall, three feet wide, and eight inches thick. Their flatness and thinness, as well as their striking silhouettes and outlines, were inspired by shapes used in traditional African art, such as shields and other objects, including Tanzanian stools, which Ms. Zimmerman said greatly influenced the design of this work. The sides facing inward have a smooth, polished finish, while those facing outward are textured and inscribed with abstract patterns. The sculpture thus contrasts and reconciles opposed statesmooth and rough, raw and finished, solid and liquid.

A gift of the artist, the work was produced with funds from FAPE and from The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The individual pieces were fabricated by Cold Spring Granite, which is located in Minnesota.

COLD SPRING GRANITE COMPANY

Untitled (2004) by Elyn Zimmerman was fabricated by COLD SPRING GRANITE from stone quarried in Africa, transported to the U.S., and returned to Africa for assembly. Established in 1898 and headquartered in Cold Spring, Minnesota, COLD SPRING GRANITE is a fully integrated quarrier and fabricator of granite building stone and memorialization products, and is one of the largest granite fabricators in the world. Works fabricated by COLD SPRING GRANITE can be seen in memorials around the United States, notably the new Korean War Memorial, Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial, and National Japanese-American Memorial in Washington, D.C.