

## Marble Institute Educates 50 Architects, Engineers, & Project Managers at U.S State Department About Natural Stone

**CLEVELAND, OH, April 1, 2010** — The Marble Institute of America (MIA) recently conducted a full day of training for fifty architects, engineers, and project managers at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Building Operations (OBO). These OBO officials are responsible for the building, restoration, and maintenance of U.S. embassies around the world. Most existing and planned embassy buildings feature extensive use of natural stone.

"The U.S. State Department's OBO chose the MIA to help train its staff on stone properties, anchorage requirements, and testing details among a host of topics," shared Gary Distelhorst, MIA executive vice president. He added, "The training of key government officials who have choices about the products they select is a continuation of current efforts to expand the knowledge of members of the architectural and design communities."

MIA's technical director, Chuck Muehlbauer, was a natural to lead the training session. His years of experience in the industry, knowledge of critical testing requirements, and presentation skills provided the OBO officials with a great program. Washington DC-based MIA president Brett Rugo, Rugo Stone, also assisted with the seminar.

"My agency will often use natural stone as a building cladding for its new embassy compound building program. Aesthetics and performance of this material is critical. I found the training on stone use, design, testing provided by the Marble Institute to be very useful" stated, Steven Gigliotti, RA Project Architect, Overseas Buildings Operations, United States Department of State.

This type of training fits into the MIA's core purpose of promoting the use of natural stone. Additionally, each participant received a copy of the MIA's *Dimension Stone Design Manual*, the stone industry's most comprehensive source for construction details about natural stone.

### About the Marble Institute of America



MIA technical director Chuck Muehlbauer shares perspectives about stone testing criteria.



MIA president Brett Rugo, Rugo Stone, educates the OBO staff about standard quarrying techniques.

For 65 years the Marble Institute of America (MIA) has been the world's leading information resource and advocate for the natural dimension stone industry. MIA members include marble, granite, limestone, sandstone, and other natural stone producers and quarriers, fabricators, installers, distributors, and contractors around the world.

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