



“The modifications include the replacement of 500 light bulbs by halogen or LED lamps, an upgrade of the boiler, the installation of a remotely controlled system on radiators to regulate the temperature in unoccupied rooms, and transparent film on the windows for a better insulation. It was an operation that only last 45 days. ‘I did not even realize that work was going on,’ Ambassador Gutman said with a smile.

“The project, which cost 111,000 Euros, was launched by the League of Green Embassies, led by the U.S. Ambassador to Finland. It shows that even an old and historic house can easily become green. ‘Many prestigious guests are received in this residence and we hope that this project will make them aware of the importance of environmental issues,’ Kateri Callahan, one of the persons involved in the project said.

“The U.S. Ambassador’s residence was offered by Belgium to the United States after World War II. Before, it belonged to Count Horace van der Burch. This prestigious past is still present in the rich decoration of the rooms.”

### **An Ambassador Who Loves Brussels**

“When one asks Howard Gutman what he thinks of Brussels, the U.S. Ambassador immediately responds ‘I love Brussels.’

“The Ambassador was nominated by Barack Obama in the summer of 2009. Since then, he has had the time to discover Brussels and, according to the 54-year-old American, what he prefers is walking to the Grand Place and that area, eating waffles, and, of course, having a beer in a pub. What is his preferred beer? ‘Impossible to say because there are too many good beers,’ he said.

“When he leaves our country, there is a specific memory he will keep. ‘For Christmas, I went to distribute toys with U.S. Marines to kids at the Queen Fabiola hospital. That was very moving,’ the Ambassador explains.”