

Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh



Nestling within the unusual architecture of the new Scottish Parliament is Queensberry House, a listed 17th-century building, now restored.



Aerial photograph and cross section through garden foyer

- 1 Public entrance
- 2 Plenary hall
- 3 Media building
- 4 Four 'towers' with debating chambers and offices of the ministers
- 5 Canongate Building
- 6 Garden foyer
- 7 Queensberry House
- 8 Offices of the MPs

In May 1999, after almost 300 years of rule from Westminster, the first elections were held for a Scottish parliament with executive powers on regional affairs. This devolution within the United Kingdom, achieved through a public referendum, was also to be reflected in the architecture of the new parliament building. The new building, standing at the end of the Royal Mile and in close proximity to Holyrood Palace, was designed by Cata-

lan architects Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue. Inspired by the landscape around Edinburgh and the work of the Scottish architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh, they came up with a design for a combination of separate, but closely grouped buildings. Organic shapes and a collage-like diversity give the complex its characteristic outward expression.



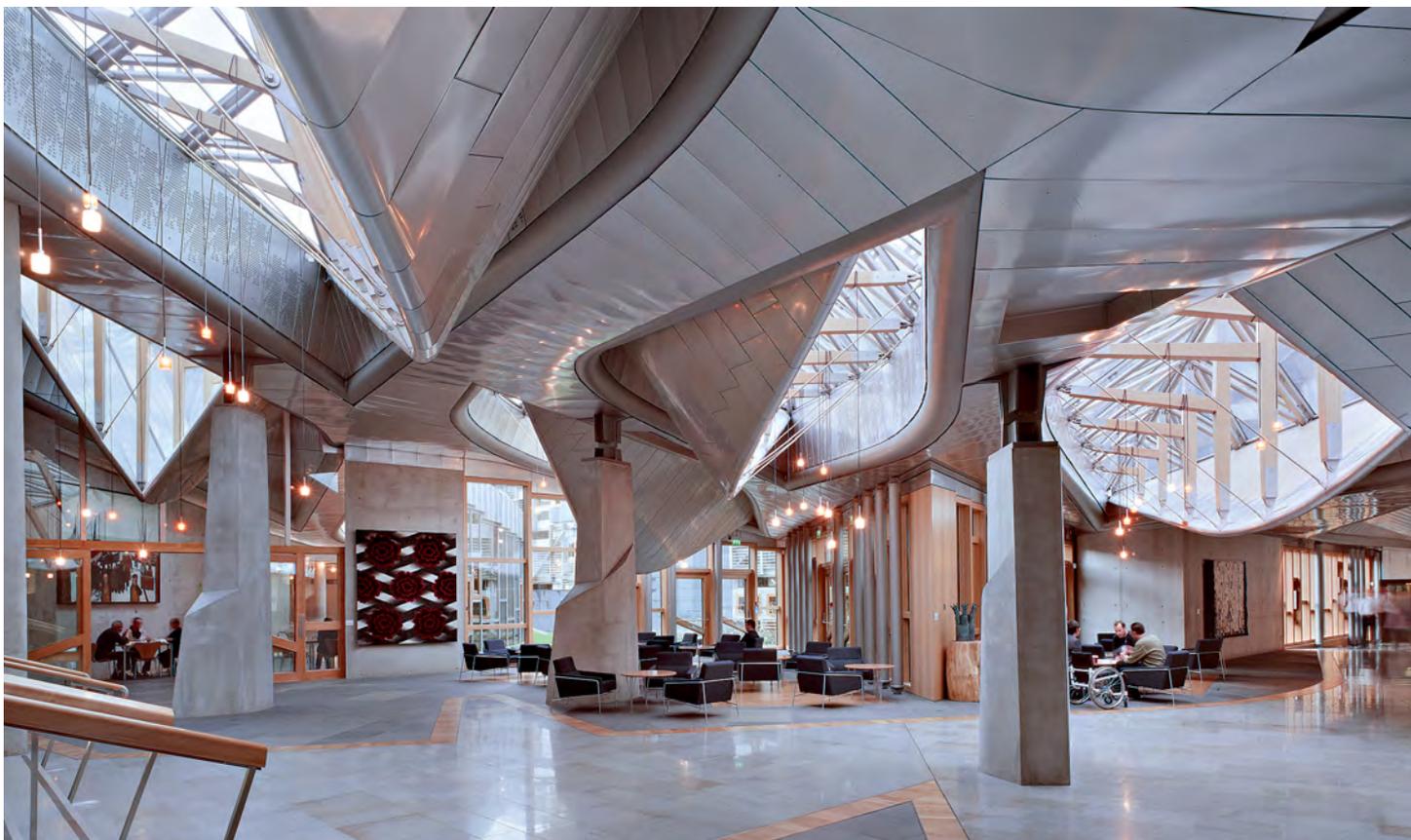
Oak, granite, sandstone, concrete, glass and stainless steel were the materials used in the building – all meeting the rigorous sustainability and environmental standards required, and also the demands in terms of quality and workmanship.

Twelve skylights shaped like giant leaves dominate the impression in the central garden foyer that is shared by the individual buildings. Solid oak beams with stainless-steel connectors support the roof glazing over this inviting space. Between the skylights, the elaborately shaped soffit is made up of panels and coffers of stainless steel, partially perforated to promote natural ventilation in the foyer.



Green public spaces are interspersed between the buildings in the complex, providing a link with the surrounding.

The garden foyer, amply lit with natural light, is used for informal meetings between parliamentarians, employees and visitors, and also as a space for events.



The roofscape of the Scottish Parliament building traces the flowing lines of Salisbury Crag, one of the highest points in nearby Holyrood Park.



The unique character and diversity of the architectural design is also reflected in the stainless steel-clad projecting windows on the offices of the MPs.



Stainless steel was used not only in the interior, but also, as grade EN 1.4404 steel sheet, for a range of external applications. The projecting windows, 50 cm and 1 m deep, on the west façade of the MPs building are clad with bent sheet. Angled and

double-lock standing seams were used to join the semi-matt panels on the façades and on the sloping roofs, while the roll-seam-welded roofs of the garden foyer ensure it stays weatherproof and practically maintenance-free for generations.

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