



The Scottish
Parliament

HOLYROOD BUILDING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER NO 3
JUNE 2000

The Holyrood Building Project newsletter is aimed at residents in the Holyrood and surrounding areas. The newsletters cover a variety of topics of interest to residents, keeping you informed of developments and progress on site.

UPDATE ON BUDGET AND PROGRAMME

During the early months of the new Parliament being in operation day to day working practices were



Model of Parliament complex - April 2000



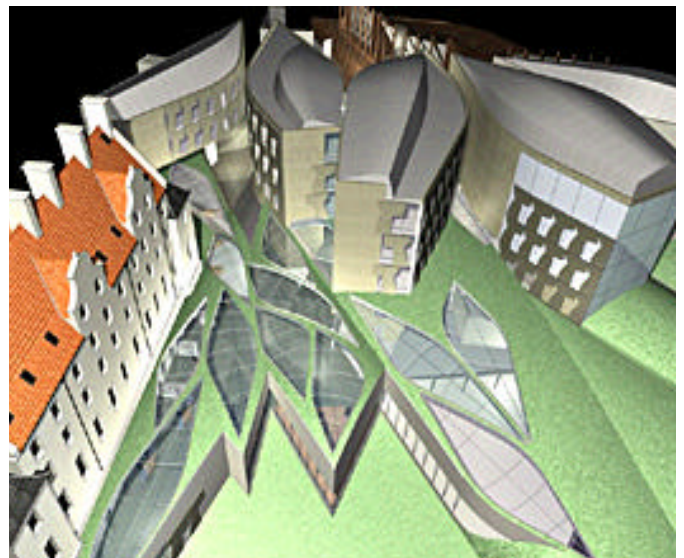
Model of Parliament complex - April 2000

completion date of December 2002. On 5 April following a debate Parliament voted to continue with the Project on that basis.

Revised plans and an updated model of the building were submitted to the City of Edinburgh Council Planning Department for consideration in May, in support of an amendment to the Notice of Proposed Development which received approval from the Council last September. Residents will be reassured to note that neither the height of the Parliament building nor the perimeters of the site will be extended as a result of the revised plans.

established which resulted in the need for additional staff. As a consequence extra space at Holyrood to that already planned for would be required. In November the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body (SPCB) instructed the Design Team to consider how best to accommodate the additional staff.

As design proposals emerged it became clear that there would be implications for the budget estimate and the programme for completion of the building. To verify the emerging costs and the effect on programme the SPCB commissioned John Spencely, a past President of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS) to carry out an independent review of the Holyrood project. Following Mr Spencely's report the SPCB issued a paper to all MSPs recommending continuation of the project at a total cost of £195m with a target



Garden level viewed from MSP building



Foyer space looking west to MSP building

REPORTS TO MSPs

Throughout the last year, MSPs have received a series of reports from the SPCB on the Holyrood Project, the most recent of which was issued on 2 June. The latest report focuses on the increase in the number of seats in the Debating Chamber's public gallery from 170 to 250, and details of the MSPs nominated to serve on the new Holyrood Progress Group. This Group is being established following a recommendation in the Spencely report, and will take over the day to day oversight of the project. MSPs Lewis Macdonald, Tavish Scott and Linda Fabiani will serve on the Group alongside professional experts to be announced shortly.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Construction work on the substructure of the MSP building, on the west side of the site (next to the Teague Homes development) began in September 1999, and practical completion of the basement was achieved in April 2000. Work on the superstructure of the MSP building is now well under way. A number of sections of the superstructure are being prefabricated off-site and will be transported to the site for construction. As the prefabricated units are put in place at a rate of up to 4 per day the MSP building will rise quickly over the next few months.



Basement of MSP building - May 2000

Within Queensberry House specialist contractors removed the plaster throughout the building to allow the Construction Manager and the Structural Engineers to reassess the internal condition of the building and it is clear that the building is in a poorer state than initial surveys had identified. However this will not alter the Parliament's earlier decision to convert the building for office and ancillary accommodation.

In May of this year scaffolding, including a temporary roof structure, was erected around Queensberry House, to allow the removal of existing external render. Work on the refurbishment of this building will commence shortly.



MSP building, garden level - May 2000

ON-SITE EXHIBITION AND VIEWING GALLERY

In February the Holyrood Project Team re-located from offices at 375 High Street to the site accommodation at the foot of Holyrood Road. Telephone and fax numbers remain unchanged.

The Project Team occupies the first floor of a new double storey portacabin, and plans for a public exhibition on the ground floor are currently being finalised. This space will be used to exhibit plans and models of the building, as well as information on the history of the project to date.

Plans are also under way for the construction of a viewing gallery which will enable members of the public to view construction safely. This structure should be in place by September 2000.

FURTHER INFORMATION

It is our intention to produce newsletters on a regular basis depending on the amount of information available. However we recognise that you may have specific questions on the project. **Any queries on site related aspects of this project should be directed to Bovis Construction on 0131 472 7100. Other general queries should initially be directed to Vicky O'Donnell of the Holyrood Project Team on 0131 348 6524.**