

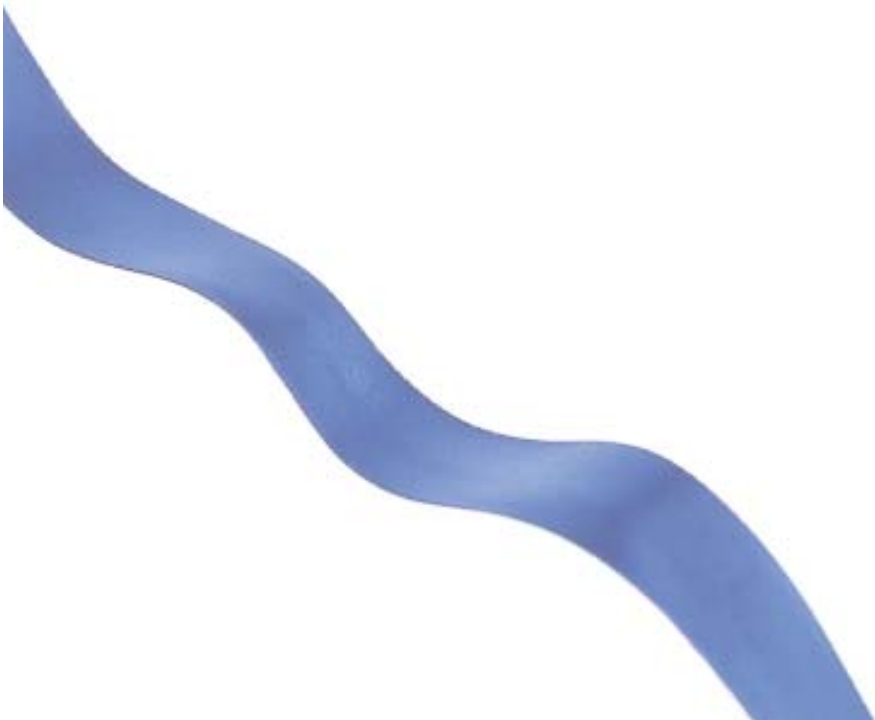


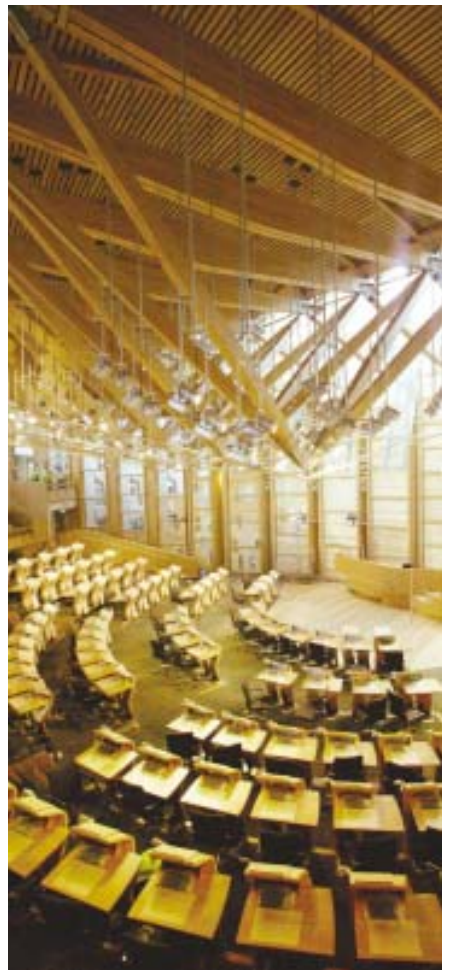
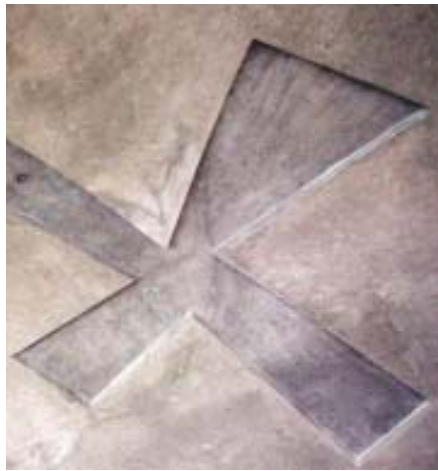
THE OPENING OF
HOLYROOD
COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME

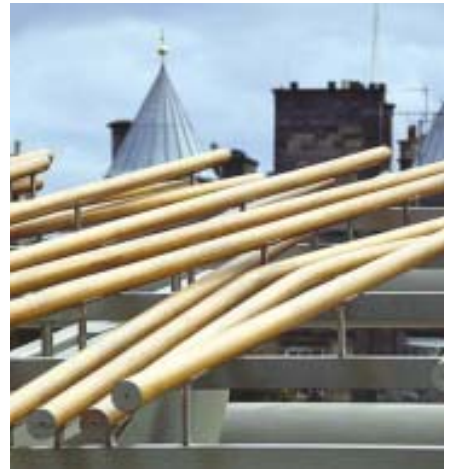


inspiration

Inspiration architecture for an inspired nation | James Cosgrove, Seamill









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Welcome to Holyrood. Welcome to the New Scottish Parliament.

Fàilte gu Taigh an Ròid. Fàilte gu Pàrlamaid ùr na h-Alba.

Our new parliamentary campus, opened today by Her Majesty The Queen, links the land of Scotland with the people who live here. It is where the heritage handed down by our predecessors fuses with the future which we and our successors will create.



Iron and Bronze Age families, the early Scottish kings, Mary Queen of Scots, James VI, Bonnie Prince Charlie, Adam Smith, Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, David Hume and countless other Scots of renown have all, on their way down the Canongate, been here before us.

But long before any of us, in the green of Holyrood Park, came Arthur's Seat and the Salisbury Crags formed 350 million years ago in the volcanic eruptions that gave shape to Scotland.

So this Parliament designed like the leaves of a plant whose long green stems stretch out to the hills is both rooted in our land and intertwined with our country's story.

This building does not stand apart, in grand isolation. Its architecture is domestic, not patrician. Our people live right beside us, a school playground next door and a residence for old soldiers across the street. We work in a place designed for conversation, not confrontation.

Our land and our history have shaped us as an egalitarian society, reflected in our founding principles - Accessibility, Accountability, Equal Opportunities, Participation and the Sharing of Power between our Government, Parliament and People. These are the real foundation stones of the new Parliament.

Today, we have a home which is widely acclaimed as a work of art. The challenge to every Member now is to turn it into a working Parliament.

To work with all who live here to create an enterprising and compassionate country. To build a sustainable Scotland, at ease with itself at home and confident of its place in the world.

It has taken much time and money to build our new legislature. Our task now is to build a better Scotland.

For this is where we delineate, debate and decide the issues of devolved Scots life. Where, formed by our land and heritage, our job is to look over the horizon.

It is a place where, in the words of Scotland's first First Minister Donald Dewar, we Scots say "who we are and how we carry ourselves".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'George Reid'.

Presiding Officer
George Reid MSP

Sometimes the hardest journeys make for the best arrivals. No one imagined that the building of a Parliament would meet with so many difficulties along the way. Now we see the vision of Enric Miralles given form - set in stone and in steel, in bright glass and in wood.

Many played a part, large or small, in its making. Workers and politicians alike prepared the ground. Stone was placed upon stone; a space was created for the people.





A future for Scotland's past

The path to Holyrood spans only one mile but has been nearly 400 years in the making.

Nestled below the crags of Arthur's Seat in a United Nations World Heritage Site, Holyrood emerged as the ideal choice for the new building on 9 January 1998.

But the story began when the first purpose-built legislature in the British Isles, Parliament House, was opened in 1639 at the top of Edinburgh's Royal Mile.


Almost three centuries after the 1707 Treaty of Union, 1 July 1999 saw Scotland celebrate the opening of its Parliament once again.

The historic visit of Her Majesty The Queen to conduct the official ceremony marked the birth of devolution. A bold new chapter in Scotland's story had begun.

The 129 Members of the Scottish Parliament, MSPs, settled into their temporary home, the Church of Scotland's General Assembly Hall on The Mound.

Proud that this building will be for my children

David Fairnie, Orkney



History in the making

Kevin Bunyan and Nicola Wake, Gorebridge

The hunt for the architects begins

The then Secretary of State for Scotland, the Rt Hon Donald Dewar QC, took the view that, as a prime city centre location surrounded by natural beauty, Holyrood was a fitting home.

The people of Scotland had their Parliament site. What they needed now was a structure that evoked the spirit of a new, forward-thinking, confident democracy.

The announcement of a design competition sparked international attention. The Edinburgh-based architectural practice RMJM and Enric Miralles's EMBT team from Barcelona was one of more than 70 inspiring partnerships and practices from around the world who embraced the challenge.

The judges of the selection panel were highly focused on the project's key objective that the building should "pay tribute to the country's past achievements and signal its future aspirations". Designers were asked to bring quality, durability and civic importance to the design, to create a modern and efficient working Parliament.

All the entries were thought provoking and stunning but it was the team headed up by Miralles which captivated the judges. They created a stimulating and unique vision of a less formal Parliament complex, one which mirrored Scotland's geographical landscape.

Miralles showed an extraordinary passion for all things Scottish and it was that quality which set the team apart.



Miralles's submission included as its centre point a photograph taken on a beach during his student days. It was to become the inspiration for his complex design.

The architects believed that Scotland's new Parliament building should befit a vibrant, modern democracy. Ordered spaces should extend naturally from the site, complementing both the city and the stunning surrounding parkland.

The snapshot was of an upturned boat, transformed into a hut with a turf roof. Simple yet ingenious, this sturdy little shelter seemed to grow out from its surroundings. So too would the Parliament, a tangible symbol of a new democratic adventure shaped by Scotland's geography, its people and its history.

The judges were enthralled. In July 1998, they announced that Miralles had won the highly prestigious commission. From the initial designs, Scotland's Parliament could now be realised. However, tragedy struck not once but twice two years later. In July 2000 Enric Miralles died suddenly, followed by Donald Dewar in October.

Although these two deaths were shocking for everyone involved, the project pushed ahead. EMBT, RMJM, Bovis Lend Lease (construction management services) and Ove Arup (structural engineers) continued to work on the designs and turning them into reality.

Amazing designs for the new Parliament

Victoria MacLellan, Pitlochry

The Holyrood vision

Plans for the complex were originally based on three main parts - the Debating Chamber, a five-storey block for MSPs and their staff and a linking section through the renovated Queensberry House.

Positive, forward thinking. Glè mhath (very good)

D McLellan, Glasgow

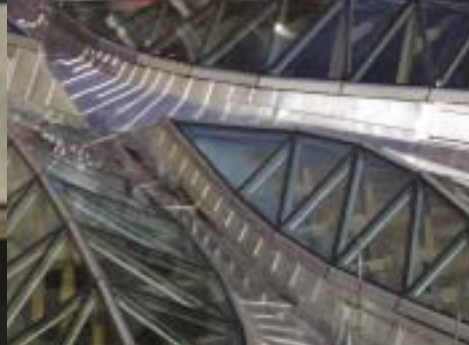


After years of decline Queensberry House, an historically important building dating back hundreds of years, was to be given an extensive overhaul. But during the project's early days, it became apparent that it simply would not cope with the traffic of MSPs and staff.

At the request of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, an innovative architectural solution to create the expanded space needed was put forward. A lobby, built on top of the garden of Queensberry House, joins the three main parts of the design while creating a sense of space and light. Large leaf-shaped windows on the roof of the lobby reinforce Miralles's organic vision of a Parliament stretching into the dramatic landscape beyond it.

But Holyrood reflects more than just Scotland's natural heritage. It integrates Scotland's past and inspires its future.

A modern design that makes the most of natural light, the Chamber is arranged so that Members sit in a semicircle, to help create an air of consensus and reduce confrontation. Low balcony seating brings people closer to the proceedings.



Integral to the Scottish Parliament's workings are the committees. Representing this, the Chamber is surrounded by a series of towers, housing the six committee rooms.

The media offices adjoin the Chamber, helping the media to report proceedings to the people of Scotland. Again, true to Miralles's idea of a series of separate but connected spaces, they are closely linked and easily accessed.

Before entering the Chamber, MSPs pass under part of the façade of the original Parliament House. When the frontage was demolished in the early 1800s, some stones were salvaged and kept at Arniston House. As a symbolic connection with Scotland's proud parliamentary history, the owner of Arniston House, Mrs Althea Dundas-Bekker, gifted the lintel back to the Scottish Parliament.

To inspire Scots and visitors alike is the Cannongate Wall. Scottish quotations from literature and from life reflect Scots' humour and pride. Engraved in a rich variety of stones from across the country, the quotes serve to remind all that the Parliament belongs to Scotland.

The architecture was inspired by nature throughout. Miralles made reference to the strength of a leaf spine and how this was echoed in the shape of fishing boats.

Something for Scotland to be proud of for generations

McNamara family, Crossford

Holyrood is now rooted in the land, daily asserting a simple belief in governance and the people's right to make their own choices. It is a big building, spacious and confident, yet it is larger than anyone could measure.



Exciting. May our MSPs grow into it

Mollie Ross, Greenock

The start of business: 7 September 2004

Miralles intended the design to allow for contemplation amid the business of politics.

Great swathes of grass flow out towards Holyrood Park from the Parliament. The completed structure will, just as Miralles intended, sit within the landscape of Scotland.

Holyrood is a new building in an ancient capital, a new forum in a young century. As it took form, it was surrounded by controversy and criticism. Now the building has emerged and it is for the people of Scotland to take it to their hearts.

With the wraps finally off and the first day of business successfully undertaken, there is no doubt that it marks a fresh, new era for the people of Scotland.

“It will be a day for the whole community of Scotland – a day of quiet Scottish dignity. The opening marks a new beginning – an opportunity for all of us to concentrate on why we are here: not to build a building, but to build a better Scotland.”

This was the declaration of the Presiding Officer George Reid when he announced the date of the opening of Holyrood.

A guest list was drawn up which included those who make a significant contribution to Scotland and others who had helped to make the building a reality. Each MSP was also asked to invite a ‘local hero’.

Preparations began in earnest in April while work on the building was being completed.

The day started with guests for a ceremonial event in the home of the first Scottish Parliament, Parliament Hall, arriving to members of the Scottish Youth Theatre performing scenes reminiscent of pre-1707 parliamentary proceedings.

After this short ceremony, a 1,000 strong procession, known historically as a Riding, left Parliament Square for the new building. Made up of Scots from all walks of life as well as representatives from across the world, this was the first formal Riding of the Parliament since 1703.

On arrival at Holyrood, MSPs took up their seats in the Chamber, while the Riding guests entered the dramatic Main Hall of the Parliament. Her Majesty The Queen formally addressed the Parliament, in a ceremony including singing and readings celebrating Scotland’s future.

A reception hosted by the Presiding Officer concluded the formal part of the day, and the guests began exploring their new Parliament and its gardens.

The formal opening: 9 October 2004



The Riding

In 1639, 149 people took part in the Riding from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to Parliament Hall-50 nobles, 47 shire commissioners and 52 burgesses. This practice continued until 1703, at the start of the last Scottish Parliament before the Treaty of Union.

In 2004, the reverse route was taken - from Parliament Hall down the Royal Mile to our new home at Holyrood.



Entertaining members of the public:

- Blazin Fiddles
- Caledon
- Clan an Drumma
- Clan Wallace
- Dance Iyahami
- Edinburgh Military Tattoo Dancers
- Queen Victoria School Display Team
- Netherbow Storytelling
- Scottish Traditional Dance Trust
- Seik Pipers
- The Martians
- and performers and bands from the Riding

The order of the Riding:

Highland Band of The Scottish Division

Flagsetters, Selkirk Band

Scottish Parliament Banner

Central Scotland Banner and Guests

Representatives of all 32 local authorities

Glasgow Banner and Guests

Te Pooka stilt walkers and performers

National Youth Choir of Scotland

Newtongrange Silver Band

Highlands and Islands Banner and Guests

Religious Leaders and Committee Guests

Lothians Banner and Guests

Te Pooka stilt walkers and performers

Scottish Youth Theatre

Lathallan School Pipe Band

Mid Scotland and Fife Banner and Guests

Armed Forces, Sports, Arts and other invited guests

North East Scotland Banner and Guests

Te Pooka stilt walkers and performers

Burns Federation performers

Borderline Theatre Company and Royal Scottish
Academy of Music and Drama

South Scotland Banner and Guests

Representatives from Consular Corps

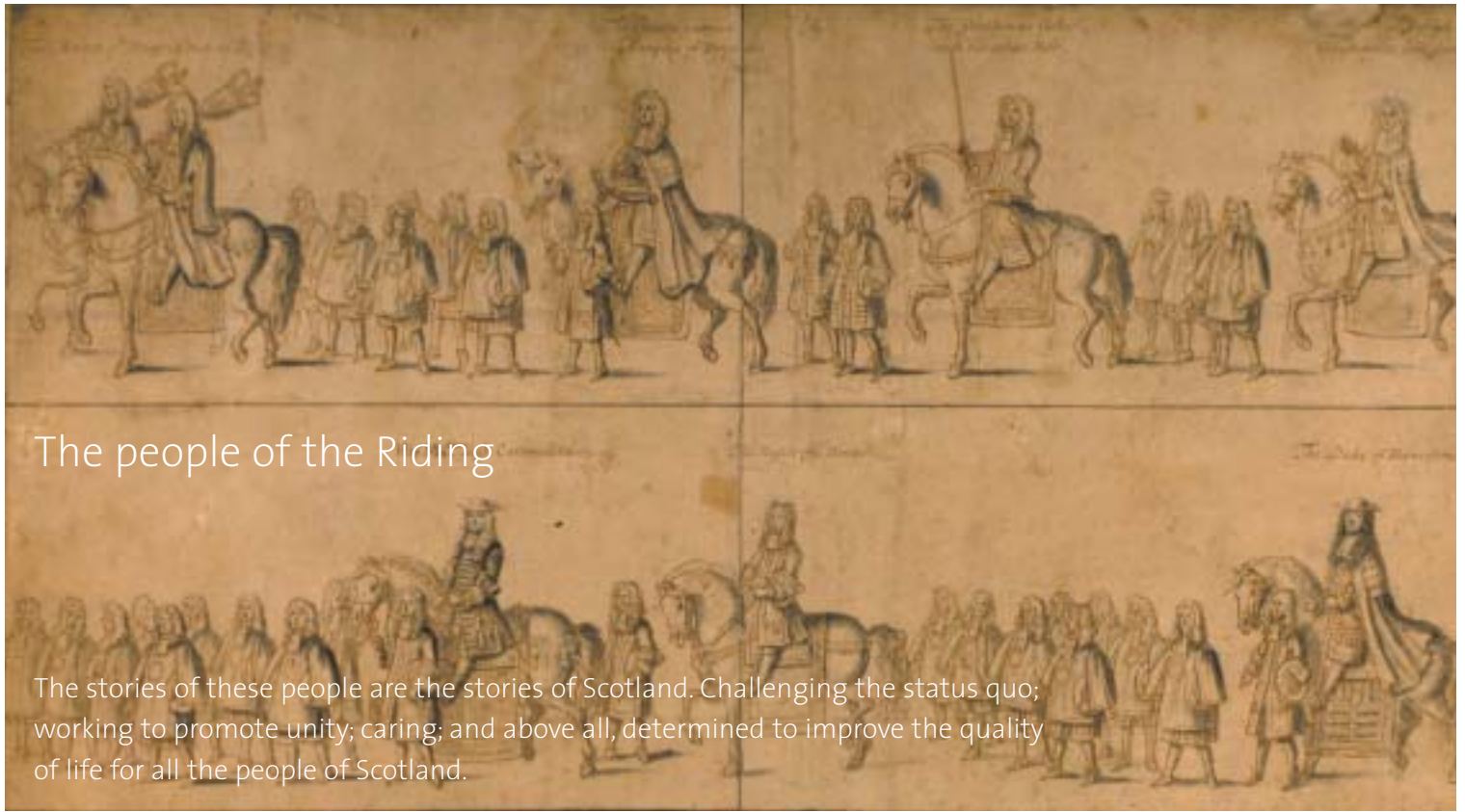
West Scotland Banner and Guests

Te Pooka stilt walkers and performers

ScottishPower Pipe Band

The Lowland Band followed by the Crown of Scotland





The people of the Riding

The stories of these people are the stories of Scotland. Challenging the status quo; working to promote unity; caring; and above all, determined to improve the quality of life for all the people of Scotland.

In recognition of Scots working hard in their communities every day, we asked MSPs to invite a 'local hero' to the day. Many have given decades of service, to the communities where they live, working without any thoughts of personal gain.



Presiding Officer George Reid presents his 'local hero' Kathleen Marshall with some flowers. Kathleen, who has been disabled since birth, has for sixteen years been Chair of Dial-a-Journey, which now provides 80,000 journeys a year for people with disabilities and special needs in Clackmannan, Stirling and Falkirk.



John Home Robertson chats with his 'local hero', Audrey Bain, nominated for her work with local youth in the Port Seton area.



Deputy Presiding Officer Murray Tosh examines the entries for the postcard competition.



Eight winners of our postcard competition also marched down the Royal Mile. The competition attracted 2,476 entries and the winning postcards highlight how people can and want to get involved in the Scottish Parliament.

Almost a third of the people in the Riding were invited for the role they play in working for the people of Scotland in charitable, public and voluntary sectors. Joined by MSPs, their 'local heroes', representatives from 40 countries, and Scots who have achieved on the international arena, they processed down the Mile to Holyrood.



Sandra Cormack and Jenny Morrison of Angus Women's Aid attended the day on behalf of the North East region.



Graham Mackay from Homeaid Caithness attended, in recognition of the work the organisation does by providing essential household furniture and electrical items to people in Caithness and Sutherland who are struggling to survive on a low income.



Anyone who saw the Riding could not fail to notice the wonderful banners from Scotland's eight regions. Each of the 16 banners was made by a different community group from the region. They displayed key words or a phrase and image that expressed the work or issues the group is involved with.



Members of the Better Burdiehouse Burn in the Lothians region carried a banner proclaiming: A haven for wildlife, heaven for all.



At Leadhills Mining Library, a volunteer group maintains the oldest subscription library in Britain. They carried a banner for the South of Scotland region, saying: Treasure the past a rich seam for the future.



Members of the Dichty group in Dundee, volunteers working for the environment, make their banner for the day, which stated: Nature in good hands for tomorrow's youth.

breathtaking

Breathtaking – as Scotland always is

V. Chatziantoniadou, Thessaloniki, Greece





OPEN THE DOORS! LIGHT OF THE DAY SHINE IN;
LIGHT OF THE MIND SHINE OUT!

We have a building which is more than a building.
There is a commerce between inner and outer,
between brightness and shadow,
between the world and those who think about the world.
Is it not a mystery? The parts cohere, they come together
like petals of a flower,
yet they also send their tongues outward
to feel and taste the teeming earth.

Did you want classic columns and predictable pediments?
A growl of old Gothic grandeur? A blissfully boring box?
Not here, no thanks! No icon, no IKEA, no iceberg,
but curves and caverns, nooks and niches,
huddles and heavens, syncopations and surprises.
Leave symmetry to the cemetery.
But bring together slate and stainless steel,
black granite and grey granite,
seasoned oak and sycamore,
concrete blond and smooth as silk -
the mix is almost alive - it breathes and beckons -
imperial marble it is not!

COME DOWN THE MILE, into the heart of the city,
past the kirk of St Giles and the closes and wynds
of the noted ghosts of history who drank their claret
and fell down the steep tenements stairs
into the arms of link-boys
but who wrote and talked the starry Enlightenment
of their days -

And before them the auld makars
who tickled a Scottish king's ear with melody
and ribaldry and frank advice -

And when you are there, down there, in the midst of things,
not set upon an hill with your nose in the air,
This is where you know your parliament should be
And this is where it is, just here.

WHAT DO THE PEOPLE WANT of the place?
They want it to be filled with thinking persons
as open and adventurous as its architecture.
A nest of fearties is what they do not want.
A symposium of procrastinators is what they do not want.
A phalanx of forelock-tuggers is what they do not want.
And perhaps above all the droopy mantra of 'it wizny me'
is what they do not want.
Dear friends, dear lawgivers, dear parliamentarians,
you are picking up a thread of pride and self-esteem
that has been almost but not quite, oh no not quite,
not ever broken or forgotten.
When you convene you will be reconvening,
with a sense of not wholly the power,
not yet wholly the power,
but a good sense of what was once in the honour of your grasp.
All right. Forget, or don't forget, the past.
Trumpets and robes are fine,
but in the present and the future you will need something more.
What is it? We, the people, cannot tell you yet,
but you will know about it when we do tell you.
We give you our consent to govern, don't pocket it and ride away.
We give you our deepest dearest wish to govern well,
don't say we have no mandate to be so bold.
We give you this great building,
don't let your work and hope be other than great
when you enter and begin.
SO NOW BEGIN. OPEN THE DOORS AND BEGIN.

Performances in the Chamber today



Royal Scottish National Orchestra



Seinneadairean-shalm Leòdhais

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra is one of Europe's leading symphony orchestras. Formed in 1891 as the Scottish Orchestra, the company has performed full-time since 1950, and was awarded the Royal Patronage in 1991. The RSNO's award-winning education programme continues to develop musical talent and appreciation throughout Scotland, working with schoolchildren and community groups in some of the biggest projects to be undertaken in the UK.

'Lewis Psalm-Singers' are a group of members of the Free Church of Scotland from the Isle of Lewis, who have represented a traditional style of Gaelic psalm-singing in places as diverse as Paris and Alabama. This style of singing is still maintained in Gaelic services of worship. The diversity of the group in terms of age and voice represents the unique sound of an island congregation singing the songs of the Bible in their native language. The precentor is Rev Dr Iain D Campbell, minister of Back Free Church in Lewis.



Eddi Reader

The voice of the hugely successful Fairground Attraction, Eddi Reader's career to date has included eight albums and her most recent release is a lyrical selection of the songs of 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns, recorded alongside the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Today she is singing 'Wild Mountainside' which was written by John Douglas, of Irvine, Ayrshire. The song celebrates the beauty of Scotland. It's a calling home to all Scots.



Edwin Morgan



Nicola Benedetti



National Youth Choir of Scotland

At the age of five, Nicola Benedetti began violin lessons and in 1997 entered the Yehudi Menuhin School. Her performances include the anniversary celebrations of the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland at Holyrood Palace, in the presence of HRH Prince Edward. The 16-year-old musician was voted BBC Young Musician of the Year in May.

Professor Edwin Morgan is recognised as Scotland's leading contemporary poet. He has been writing for six decades and some of his best known works such as *The Second Life* (1968) and *From Glasgow to Saturn* (1973) have been taught in schools across Scotland. Earlier this year, Professor Morgan was appointed the first national poet of Scotland, known as 'The Scots Makar'. In 1999 he was named City Laureate for Glasgow and a year later he received the Queen's Gold Medal for poetry. The Poem was read today by Scottish poet and playwright Liz Lochhead.

NYCoS was formed in 1996 to provide an opportunity for young singers in Scotland to participate in choral singing at a national level. Over 2,000 young singers in total are currently involved in the main NYCoS choir, NYCoS Training Choir, National Boys Choir and a network of eight NYCoS Area Choirs. The NYCoS education programme is supporting the Scottish Executive's Youth Music Initiative by working in partnership with schools and local authorities.

Playing at the reception and open house:

National Youth Choir of Scotland, Caledon, Gizen Briggs, Katy Target Adams, Scottish Fiddle Orchestra

Entertaining the children during the day:

TAG Theatre, Clanranald Trust for Scotland, Te Pooka

It is my pleasure, on behalf of all Scottish Parliament staff, to welcome you to the official opening of the new Parliament building. It has been a great challenge to get to this point and, as Parliament staff, we have felt this as keenly as anyone.





Every member of Parliament staff has had a part to play in gearing up for business at Holyrood, whether this has involved moving and configuring our furniture and equipment, managing the procedures, systems and networks of the new building, or carrying out an extensive range of tests ahead of first business. That is by no means an exhaustive list, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff once again for their superb efforts.

Since we moved to Holyrood, there has been a perceptible sense of excitement and optimism among staff. This does not merely reflect our shared and genuine delight at the building itself. More importantly, a permanent home with facilities will enable us to continue to develop the high-quality services we provide to Parliament. And, we now have first-class facilities for members of the public.

We are proud to work in a building that was designed with the principles of accessibility and openness very much in mind. We will continue to foster a culture of a parliamentary service with integrity and professionalism at its heart. We welcome you to the Parliament and hope you enjoy your experience of Scotland's democratic home!

P E Grice
Clerk/Chief Executive

The “Honours of Scotland” sculpture

Scotland has some of the oldest surviving regalia in Europe. The Crown, Sword and Sceptre have been at the centre of Scottish life since mediaeval times. They were paraded through the streets of Edinburgh in a Riding at the first meeting of the old Scots Parliament as the symbol of the community of the realm.

Now the new Scots Parliament has a striking sculpture, inspired by the Honours, reinterpreted for our times in silver by Graham Stewart.

Bold and elegant, the sculpture brings together the three elements of the Honours into a flowing whole. The central axis represents the Sceptre and is topped with an oakleaf engraved sphere and rock crystal. Two adjoined, curving forms, Möbius strips, suggest the shape of the Crown. Within this space, the Sword element intersects the Sceptre, creating a saltire cross.



The sculpture was commissioned by the Incorporation of Goldsmiths of the City of Edinburgh and was presented by Her Majesty The Queen on 9 October 2004.

The Scottish Parliament wishes to thank the following organisations for their contribution to the Opening Day:



For further information about the building or visiting the Parliament, please visit www.scottish.parliament.uk or contact us on:

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