

Holyrood Progress Group

Newsletter No.2 Sept 2000

“Welcome back from the recess to the second HPG Newsletter. The Group has continued to meet throughout the summer months, during which time the new building has emerged over the hoardings and into public view. Information on this and other developments is contained in this newsletter which we hope will be of interest to both Members and staff”.

Lewis Macdonald, Linda Fabiani, Tavish Scott

VISITORS' CENTRE

The area around Holyrood has never been so busy with visitors and – judging by the number of people peering through the gates – the Parliament site is one of the principal attractions. Now that the building is clearly rising out of the ground there is plenty to see from the pavement but there are other, better ways of making building projects accessible to people.



Internal visualisation of Visitor Centre

When the conceptual ideas for a Parliament building at Holyrood were exhibited across Scotland in 1998 they attracted some 35,000 people who were interested in buildings in general and the Parliament in particular. It is with this interest in mind that the Project Team have planned the new on-site exhibition of the Holyrood Building Project. Situated at the foot of Holyrood Road between Our Dynamic Earth and the entrance to Holyrood Park, the centre will open on 9 October 2000 and is funded from the Parliament's publicity budget and supported by the Design Team.

The exhibition will chart the history of the Project from site selection to design competition and the development of the design from concept stage through to the agreed scheme design. A “Time Line” will summarise the project using key dates and events. Some of the small finds from the archaeological investigations carried out on site will also be on display.

In addition to a series of information boards and models of the building, technology will be incorporated into the exhibition to give visitors the opportunity to view and interact with the latest computer generated images produced by the Design Team.

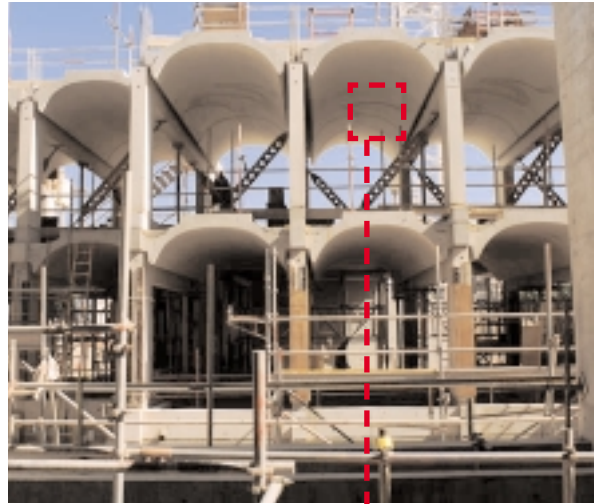
A large plasma screen in the presentation area will show a short video about the project since the Parliament took control in June of last year. When Parliament is in session, the video will be interrupted to allow visitors to watch a live broadcast from the Assembly Hall. Touch screen information kiosks will give people the freedom to view the computer images at their leisure.

Similar ventures in other places have been immensely successful in communicating with people about public building projects. We are genuinely excited by the proposals for this exhibition and would encourage everyone to make time to visit it and learn from it.

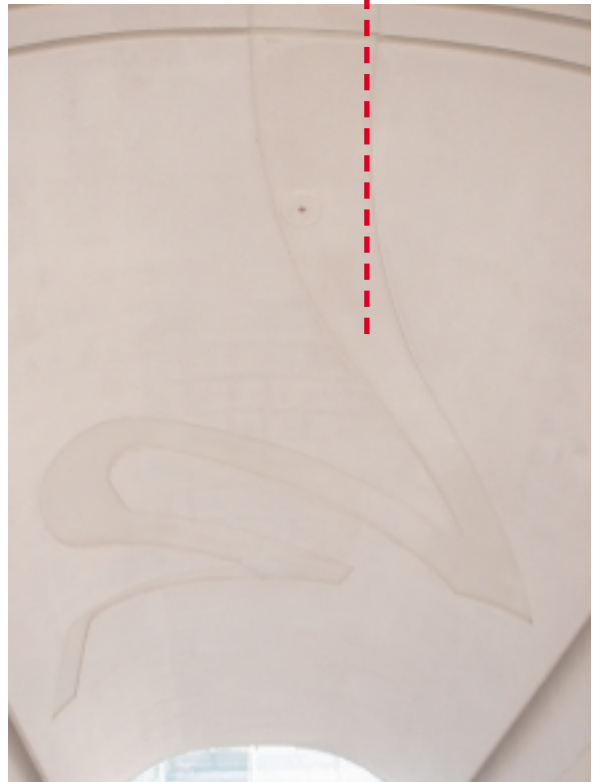
More detailed information about opening times will be made available within the coming weeks. During November, on dates to be announced, the exhibition will remain open on several evenings for a private viewing by MSPs and parliamentary staff when members of the Design and Project Teams will be available to explain the plans for the building and to answer any questions.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS: SPOTLIGHT ON THE MSP BUILDING

The MSP block is now clearly visible from the road. This is the building which will house MSPs and their personal staff as well as shared Party resource centres and ancillary facilities. Enric Miralles was closely involved in the design of this



MSP block Vaulted Ceilings



Close-up detail on Vaulted Ceiling

building and his distinctive touch is already evident in the design of the ceilings and windows.

External hoardings around the visitor centre





Profile of an MSP window



Above & Below: MSP block under construction Sept 2000

The so-called 'north core' (stairs and liftshaft) is almost complete and the vaulted ceilings of the individual MSP rooms on the ground and first floors are all in place. It is now possible to walk up and down the corridors on the first and second floors and in and out of over 40 MSPs' rooms.

It will not be long before mock-ups of MSP rooms are ready for members to examine in detail and consider their particular needs. We and the Project Team will be continuing this dialogue with the Parties now that the recess is over.



The "North Core"

The basic construction of the MSP block is on programme for completion by mid January 2001. At that point the building will appear largely finished from the outside although the essential services and fittings which enable the building to be used will not be installed until the whole complex is ready for occupation. Once construction is complete across the whole site, the detailed testing and preparation of the building for occupation can begin.



PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

We continue to monitor both programme and budget carefully. Some adjustments to programme have been made to accommodate the fact that Edinburgh Council were not in a position to determine Planning consent before the summer. However, the overall programme is not affected and completion of construction is still on target for the end of 2002.

As was set out in response to a recent PQ, 11 packages have been let to date by the construction manager. Some major packages are going out to tender over the coming few weeks and we will keep you informed as these come in. As you would expect there are both swings and roundabouts in the tenders returned but overall the budget continues to balance and we are currently on target for £195m.

HOLYROOD: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

This newsletter is only one way of finding out about progress at Holyrood. The Progress Group will be shortly holding their first Question and Answer session on the project. In order to make the most of the time, Members will be invited to submit their questions in advance but there will also be an opportunity for 'supplementaries' to be asked on the day. Further information will follow soon.

STOP PRESS!

PLANNING CONSENT

The City of Edinburgh Council Planning Committee met on 6 September to consider the Amendment to the Notice of Proposed Development which was lodged in April. The amendment was approved subject to certain conditions and we hope to clear up the remaining points as soon as possible.

Contacts

For further information about any of the contents of this newsletter, contact Eric Kinsey in the Holyrood Project Team on 86518. For inquiries relating to the Progress Group, the Secretary Sarah Davidson, is on 86509.



View west across the site - Sept 2000

This newsletter is aimed primarily at MSPs and staff of the Parliament to keep them abreast of developments in relation to the Holyrood Building Project. It has been produced to allow it to be filed in the Holyrood Building folder circulated to Members last autumn. A copy of this newsletter will be put on the Parliament's website in the pages devoted to the Holyrood Project.