

PARLIAMENT HOUSE



Timeline

- 1988 - The NT Government announced a State Square Precinct Project (Parliament House, Supreme Court, car parks and gardens) would be developed.
- 1990 - The old Legislative Assembly building was demolished. On 2 August, the foundation stone for the new Parliament House was laid.
- 1994 - On 18 August, Parliament House was opened by the Hon. Bill Hayden AC, Governor-General of Australia.

- Parliament House is intended to serve its purpose for 100 years and was designed to cater for increased usage. For example, the Chamber can accommodate up to forty members should a population rise lead to the need for a bigger Legislative Assembly.
- The building houses Ministerial offices, the Department of the Legislative Assembly, offices for all elected members, the Northern Territory Library and the Parliamentary Counsel (who draft bills).



Fountain at Speaker's Green

- Meldrum Burrows, an architectural firm, was responsible for the design of the building. Numerous other individuals were also involved in the design and interior design.
- Parliament House was specifically designed to accommodate Darwin's tropical climate. The façade and roof effectively screen 80% of direct sunlight, as well as serving as protection from cyclones.



The Main Hall at night

- Most of the interior timbers are Tasmanian Golden Sassafras, Tasmanian Brushbox and West Australian Jarrah. The main hall and foyer contain pink marble from India, white granite from Sweden, black granite from South Australia and brown granite from the Northern Territory (Mt Bundy).
- The main hall is used for parliamentary receptions and occasional exhibitions and can comfortably accommodate 1000 people.

Also on the site of Parliament House...

- The site was originally occupied by the Larrakia people.
- In 1869 the Surveyor-General of South Australia, G.W. Goyder, landed nearby to set up the original settlement, then known as Palmerston.
- In 1873 Darwin's first Post Office opened on this site. Part of its stone wall can be seen in the foyer of the NT Library.
- On 19 February 1942 Japanese war planes extensively bombed Darwin. The post office and connected buildings were completely destroyed and ten post office employees were killed. A plaque commemorating those killed can be found in the main hall of Parliament House.

