

FACTS ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S PARLIAMENT HOUSE



Design	329 designs from around the world were received by the government
Successful Architects	Mitchell/Giurgola and Thorp
Location	Capital Hill, Canberra
Site Size	32 hectares
Cost	\$1.1 billion
Intended life-span	200 years
Construction began	late 1980
Official opening	22 August 1988
Construction material	300,000 cubic metres of concrete
Total building area	250,000 square metres
Source of material	the curved walls are surfaced with red granite from Eugowra, about 270km NW of Canberra
Number of rooms	4,500
Flag Mast	81 metres high and weighs 220 tonnes
Flag	12.8 metres by 6.4 metres
Interior Features	<p>The Foyer contains 48 Italian and Portuguese marble clad pillars.</p> <p>The Great Hall contains a parquet floor of Western Australian Jarrah with Ebony and Blackbutt inlays and a tapestry on the southern wall based on Arthur Boyd's painting of a bush landscape.</p> <p>The House of Representatives chamber is decorated in the traditional lower house colour of green - the colours of Australian eucalypt and acacia trees. It has 536 public gallery seats.</p> <p>The Senate chamber is decorated in the reds of Australian soils and red gums and can accommodate 596 people in the galleries.</p> <p>Among the many paintings in the building are portraits of previous Prime Ministers, Speakers of the House of Representatives and Presidents of the Senate.</p>