Scottish Parliament Building Proposed Team

EMBT, Enric Miralles Benedetta Tagliabue is an international architecture studio, with experience in public spaces and buildings. An important part of their work had happened in Catalonia during the construction period that followed the Catalan national rebirth. Now, the office is organized with the idea that, within the E.U.E.C., professionals could move and establish positive dialogues with different urban situations. Currently, the office is working on several actual projects in Holland, Germany, and Greece. Many books and papers have been devoted to the firm, such as the Golden Lion at Venice Biennale in 1996.

EMBT have, during their forty years in Edinburgh, grown into an international, multi-disciplinary practice. The skill and experience of their practices are renowned in large scale, high-profile projects ranging from modern state-of-the-art office buildings to specialized acoustic and environmental design for auditoriums such as the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. As well, their scope of work spans from detailed conservation of historic buildings like the Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg where they advised UNESCO, to rigorously modern interventions such as the Tron Theatre, Glasgow.

Both practices shall work together for the duration of the project, with Enric Miralles personally leading the project from the beginning until its completion. He will develop his current academic engagements during the Parliament’s construction in order to concentrate on the design, and perhaps lead a studio at one of the Scottish architecture schools to engage the design issues emerging from the Parliament project.

The contribution of EMBT will be primarily during the preliminary design stage. Later on, during the advanced design and construction, RMJM will lead supervision of the contract. This principle is illustrated below.

Diagram A

Responsibilities would be as follows:

1. EMBT would lead and direct the design assisted by RMJM.
2. RMJM would assist in the development of design details. They would be responsible for technical standards, production information, contract documentation, and supervision.
3. RMJM would be responsible for dealing with statutory bodies, as well as obtaining planning and building consents.
4. The project would be briefed, designed, managed, and supervised from the EMBT’s office in Edinburgh by the joint EMBT and RMJM team. This way the designer understands the construction needs and the supervision team fully understands the design intentions.

EMBT Architects Associates

The partnership of EMBT Barcelona with RMJM Edinburgh will bring together young and inventive Catalan architects with an established and widely experienced business in Edinburgh.

EMBT: Benedetta Tagliabue, Enric Miralles

EMBT were a finalist in the competition for the Scottish Parliament, in 1992. Their design was widely acclaimed, with particular reference to the courtyard-like space in the centre of the building. The planning for EMBT is now led by Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue.

EMBT have designed various buildings in the United Kingdom, such as the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, the Enric Miralles Building at the New York Institute of Technology, and the Edinburgh University Library. They have also designed the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, which opened in 1997.

RMJM: Rennie Mackintosh Architects

RMJM is a well-established architectural firm with a strong presence in Scotland. They have designed a number of iconic buildings in the city, including the Glasgow School of Art and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

RMJM have worked on a variety of projects in the UK, including schools, hospitals, and residential developments. They have also been involved in the design of public spaces and cultural facilities, such as the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

The Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament is a building located in Edinburgh, Scotland, that serves as the meeting place of the Scottish Parliament. It was designed by Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue of EMBT Architects Associates and completed in 2004. The building is known for its distinctive, organic design and its use of natural light.

The Scottish Parliament is an example of contemporary architecture, combining both traditional and modern elements. Its design is inspired by the Scottish landscape and the natural world, with a focus on sustainability and energy efficiency. The building has won numerous awards and is considered one of the most important architectural projects of the 21st century.
THE PARLIAMENT SITS IN THE LAND...

SCOTLAND IS A LAND ... IT IS NOT A SERIES OF CITIES.
The Parliament should be able to reflect the land which it represents.

A MOUNTAIN AND SOME BUILDINGS

Edinburgh before the enlargement projected by James Craig in 1766 could be understood as the rapport of buildings with the mountains on which they were constructed. Lawn Market and Grassmarket exemplify this association of public places with the topography, which they form part of. Therefore we can abstract Edinburgh before James Craig to a mountain and some buildings.

Buildings and Bridges

James Craig himself, defined in his Plan number 4, approved on August 3rd, 1766 as “Proposals for carrying on certain public works in the city of Edinburgh”. The implementation of this plan initiated a period of intense civic energy; all public buildings were connected with infrastructure. The Register House, The Royal Scottish Academy and the University, built at the same time, are all buildings connected with bridges.

The land itself will be a material, a physical building material. We would like the qualities that the past gives to the water and turf as the base for the new Parliament. This is a way of marking a conceptual distance from the Holyrood Palace. Whereas the Palace is a building situated on the landscape, related to gardening tradition, the new Scottish Parliament would sit within the land.

THE OPEN SITE

This image is crucial to understand the possibilities of the site.

The perception of the place and the scale of the site will change drastically when the end of Canongate is opened. The small scale of the houses along the Canongate will appear again and long distance views will open to the Robert Burns Monument and the rock of Arthur's Seat.

The new Parliament should not impair these views which will become visible when the existing Brewery is demolished.

Small-scale and long distance views, like the “attentive eye” of the John Knox building on the Royal Mile, offer a new field of vision.

THE PARLIAMENT SITS IN THE LAND...

because it belongs to the Scottish Land

This is our goal.

Since the beginning we worked with the intuition that the building should express collective consciousness and sentiments.

We don't want to forget that the Scottish Parliament will be in Edinburgh, but will belong to Scotland, to the Scottish Land. The Parliament should be able to reflect the land which it represents. The building should originate from the sloping base of Arthur's seat and arrive into the city almost out of the void.

Representative buildings in Edinburgh are identified with prominent topographical sites or associated with roads and bridges.

To follow this tradition on the site given to the new Scottish Parliament poses difficulties for various reasons.

In this site there are problems in creating an identification between a new building and the existing infrastructure system. Furthermore, because the Parliament takes possession of the site and gardens at the end of the Royal Mile, urban intimacy along the Royal Mile is difficult here. For this reason it is important to look onto the pint and see how buildings have existed along the Royal Mile.

John Knox House is an example of a building that joins out of alignment, the permitting glimpses from one building to another. Along the Royal Mile one sees other buildings sticking their noses out to look at each other.

The Parliament building should define the end of the Canongate as more than just a construction along the street. The Parliament building should be able to reinforce the existing qualities of the place.

We imagine our proposal for the New Scottish Parliament as a whole piece of feeling and expression. But the crucial idea that motivates us is that...
THE PARLIAMENT...

IN PEOPLE'S MINDS.

The previous panel explains some specific circumstances about Girton Cross place.

However, let us keep in mind the urban quality at the end of Canongate: buildings, land and views together in one place.

Distinctive qualities, that do not exist at the upper part of the Royal Mile, are found here at Canongate.

The Parliament should belong to a broader thought,

The specific place should not be crucial.

The PARLIAMENT building should come out of a CLEAR and STRONG statement...

in a way independent of site circumstances...

Any strong statement should carry political implications...

The Parliament is a form in people's mind.

it is a MENTAL PLACE...

That place should be expressed in the site,

WE HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE BUILDING SHOULD BE LAND ... BUILT OUT OF TO CARVE IN THE LAND THE FORM OF LAND... GATHERING PEOPLE TOGETHER

NOT a building in a park nor a garden.

An amphitheatre that slopes, is what the land is offering us for building the Parliament... It is a form that could be built in many ways... This social form could have many "forms"...

The natural amphitheatre will be the first form in the land.

We hope that from this form emerges a series of identifications between the building and the land, between land and citizens, between citizens and the building.

Not just an "image", but a physical representation of a participatory attitude to sit together - gathering.

Instead of an overwhelming monument, which only relates to dimensions and rhetorical forms, we like to think about it in terms of a psychological approach.

What is the mental image of the new Parliament?

How will all of us, as citizens, relate in our minds to the new Parliament?

How is it going to be FUNDAMENTALLY DISTINCTIVE from other European Parliaments?
PARLIAMENT USER'S ORGANISATION

Taking full advantage of Girth Cross Site

As a general principle, office accommodation should be on the ground floor as far as possible. This is to ensure that it is easy for people to walk between the various buildings. The aim is to create a clear area of open space that can be used by the public for recreation and leisure.

1. **The Queensberry House**
   - The Queensberry House will be the main entrance to the parliamentary complex. It will house the offices of the Speaker and the Deputy Speakers, as well as other parliamentary offices.
   - The design will be in keeping with the historic buildings around it, giving the complex a coherent appearance.

2. **The Chambers**
   - The Chambers will be the main meeting place of the Parliament. They will be designed to accommodate a wide range of events, from small meetings to large conferences.
   - The Chambers will be located on the ground floor of the main building, with access from the main entrance.

3. **Beautiful tote and glass roof**
   - The roof will be made of glass, allowing natural light to enter the building and providing a bright and airy atmosphere.
   - The roof will also be designed to allow rainwater to be collected and used for irrigation and other purposes.

4. **The landscape**
   - The landscape around the Parliament will be designed to be welcoming and inviting. This will include trees, shrubs, and other plants.
   - The landscape will be designed to be environmentally friendly, with the use of sustainable materials and practices.

5. **Security**
   - Security will be a priority at the Parliament. The building will be designed to be secure, with access controlled by key cards and other means.
   - The building will also be designed to be accessible to people with disabilities.

6. **Sustainability**
   - The Parliament will be designed to be sustainable, with the use of renewable energy sources and other environmentally friendly practices.
   - The building will also be designed to be energy-efficient, with the use of modern technologies and other measures.

7. **The environmental impact**
   - The Parliament will be designed to have a minimal environmental impact. This will include the use of sustainable materials and practices.
   - The building will also be designed to be energy-efficient, with the use of modern technologies and other measures.

8. **The community**
   - The Parliament will be designed to be a community resource. This will include the provision of meeting spaces and other facilities.
   - The building will also be designed to be accessible to the public, with the provision of accessible facilities.

9. **The future**
   - The Parliament will be designed to be adaptable to future needs. This will include the provision of space for expansion and other changes.
   - The building will also be designed to be resilient to future challenges, with the use of sustainable materials and practices.

In conclusion, the Parliament of Scotland will be a modern, sustainable, and welcoming building that will serve the needs of the people of Scotland for many years to come.