

Attachment G
Project Architect's Letter of Design Intent

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE
SOUTH EAST WING REFURBISHMENT
STATEMENT OF DESIGN INTENT: HERITAGE

19th June 2008

With regard to the South East Wing, the heritage significance of the Old Parliament House (OPH) places a high priority on the preservation of the Wing's existing fabric and the ability to restore it to a determined previous condition that will enable interpretation by the public.

The principle objective in heritage terms is to retain, stabilise and maintain the existing fabric and fixtures of the wing. Where possible, elements of the fabric will remain in place. The introduction of new elements required for the proposed immediate use of the Wing will be introduced in such a way as to minimise modification of the existing fabric, to minimise deterioration or damage of existing fabric through use, and enable existing fabric to be readily accessed and maintained.

In the immediate future, the South East Wing is to accommodate office functions for the Australian Prime Ministers Centre (APMC) research facility and OPH staff. As such it has to accommodate all the requirements for office operation in a code-compliant environment. This includes offices, meeting rooms, work rooms, store rooms, reading rooms, library type stacks, lunch rooms, kitchenettes and toilet facilities.

This will require:

1. Removal of elements containing asbestos.
2. Providing power and data distribution, lighting, fire detection and suppression, emergency services and environmental control;
3. Reconfiguration of rooms to accommodate the proposed functions;
4. Addressing energy consumption through modifying the thermal performance of the fabric through, where possible, increasing the level of thermal insulation and reducing the air permeability of the building envelope; and

Where existing fabric has to be removed, it will be done in such a way that the original layout of spaces and extent of original fabric can be readily understood. Some elements of the existing fabric will have to be removed for the following reasons:

1. Health and safety: principally, removing elements containing asbestos, for example the ceiling of the 1960's sections of the Wing;
2. To accommodate the proposed immediate use: principally removing some walls in the 1960's sections of the Wing to create spaces for shared office accommodation and connected spaces to hold the APMC collection; and
3. Protection of elements that cannot be stabilised, protected from damage or adequately maintained in situ: These elements will be removed and placed in storage ready for reinstatement at a future date. For example, the corridor ceilings in the 1940's section.

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Architecture
Interior Design
Urban & Landscape Design
Heritage Conservation
Project Coordination
Consulting



HBO + EMTB

Where elements are to be replaced, the HBO+EMTB design philosophy that will be adopted:

1. Where elements are to be removed and not be reinstated (e.g. 1960's ceilings), they will be replaced with elements of similar character and configuration, and where possible similar material, in order to maintain the existing character of the Wing; or
2. Where elements are removed to storage for possible future reinstatement they will be replaced by elements that can be clearly identified as new and introduced and not intended to contribute to the interpretation of the space (e.g. corridor ceilings in the 1940's section).

Where new elements are introduced that are not replacing existing elements, they will be clearly identified as new and introduced through the choice of materials and form, and method of connection to the existing fabric.



Robert Thorne

Director of Architecture
HBO+EMTB (Canberra)