

"(b) policies and practices followed by DPS for the management of the heritage values of Parliament House and its contents"

As a member of the original architectural design team I can confirm that virtually all participants had aspirations to embody the functions and symbols of participatory parliamentary democracy within all aspects of the work of the design of the New and Permanent Parliament House, integrating architectural and landscape design and detail, furniture and fittings, and works of art and craft, in a fully coordinated and interrelated manner. The seemingly unprecedented result has been appreciated in numerous publications, conferences and lectures worldwide.

The building design anticipated, as was a requirement of the competition documents and subsequent Brief, that certain spaces and their component elements would be fixed, left unchanged for generations, whilst others would be revised in a considered manner as representation, work practices, and technology suggested change.

To maintain the integrity of the wide range of interrelated designed works in an environment of change over time, a considered management plan and review process is required, and in this the original design and construction is relevant and instructive. An independent body, the Parliament House Construction Authority, was formed to be independent yet responsible to a Joint Standing Committee, to oversee the management of the process. Their independence provided a free-from-influence environment to seek the best solutions from all parties, and the reporting to the Committee ensured review and approval.

In a like manner, perhaps today, it would be appropriate to establish an independent body (Architect of the Parliament?) outside of the various parliamentary departments to provide assessment of best practice of maintaining design integrity, and the development of strategies, policies, guidelines, and conservation management directions to allow for careful modifications of the building to occur over the next generation's occupancy. This position could be required to report to a joint committee for comment and approval and acceptance of directions from time to time.

Whilst the above might not be the perfect model or precise reference I would like to respectfully suggest that a consultancy be carried out to ascertain an appropriate model, perhaps after surveying similar international institutional models.