Parliament as a building site
The Austrian Parliament building was first opened 130 years ago – now it is time for a comprehensive renovation. There are serious defects in the fabric of the building which have to be repaired. In addition, the building must be made wheelchair-accessible. This magnificent building, part of the famous Ringstraβe, will acquire a new interior.

In July 2014 the National Council and the Federal Council unanimously passed a law relating to the renovation of the building. A cap of € 352.2 million was imposed on the costs. After a European-wide tender process the Viennese planning consortium Jabornegg & Pálfy-AXIS was commissioned as a general contractor providing all the necessary services.
The architectural concept of the original designer Theophil Hansen reveals his feeling for the bigger picture as well as the details. This is the basis upon which the complex building is being thoroughly renovated. The main structure of the Chamber of the National Council will be retained, but it will be equipped with contemporary fixtures and fittings and – as a symbol of transparency – the ceiling will be opened.

Accessibility is the main goal of the planning. Nobody should be excluded from participating in the work of Parliament – this applies equally to Members of Parliament, staff and visitors. And last but not least, a reduction of the energy requirements by up to 60 % is planned – with significantly more usable area.
The architecture of Theophil Hansen has a timeless quality and was thought-out into the smallest detail. Even 130 years after its construction, the building still functions as a venue for Parliament, but it does now require comprehensive renovation and modernisation. The building will be made fit for the demands of a 21st century parliament.

The longitudinal section reveals how the historical fabric of the building will be stabilised and further developed by means of targeted building interventions. The building will be better equipped and state-of-the-art technology introduced. At the same time, currently unexploited space in the roof area and on the ground floor will be developed.

Renovation from the cellar to the roof
On the ground floor, directly below the two plenary chambers, two new committee rooms are being created. To do so, previously unused space is being converted and upgraded. On the top floor there is room for additional offices and new multi-function rooms for meetings and events.

A large restaurant area is being created above the Colonnaded Hall, which will be open to the public. Four terraces with a total surface area of around 400 square metres will complete the new roof landscape. The panorama view over Vienna and the proximity to the statues and the wall reliefs create a unique experience.
A new Parliament is being created in which the public can observe and participate in political work in an uncomplicated way. The main entrance on the Ringstraße will have a large foyer which is the starting point for visits. Above the National Council chamber, a new visitors’ gallery with a panorama view is being created. From here, events in the chamber can be observed also when Parliament is sitting.

9 July 2014

A unanimous resolution was passed by the National Council:
- The 130-year-old building will be thoroughly renovated and made fit for the decades to come.
- Start of work in summer 2017, planned duration three years.
- Upper cost limit for the renovation set by law at €352.2 million and €51.4 million for the temporary accommodation and moving.

After a European-wide tender process, the Viennese planning consortium Jabornegg & Pálffy_AXIS was commissioned as a general contractor providing all the necessary services. The renovation project is being realised by a newly-created company consisting of Parliament and the Bundesimmobiliengesellschaft (Federal Property Company).

**The Parliament building**

Size (including ramp): Length 151.68 metres – width 132.72 metres
- Plot area 20,142 square metres
- 1,600 rooms with 920 windows
- Largest room: Colonnaded Hall (24x41 metres, total surface area almost 1,000 square metres).
Additional information on the renovation work is available at: sanierung.parlament.at