

The parliament building

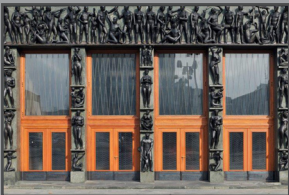


Construction of the parliament building, designed by the architect Vinko Glanz, began in 1954 and was completed in 1959. On 19 February 1959, it hosted the first session of the People's Assembly of the People's Republic of Slovenia. Today, the building houses the National Assembly and the National Council. The four-storey modernist building has a floor space of 2,200 square metres. Construction was guided by the principle that local materials such as marble, stone and wood should be used. The entire building is tiled with karstic marble from Kopriva, while the areas under the windows on the facade are filled with green granite from Oplotnica.

In 1991, a number of accesses were created to join the parliament building with the adjacent building on Tomšičeva ulica. The latter building, constructed in 1879 for the Kranjska hranilnica savings bank, now contains offices for deputy groups, working bodies and various parliamentary services.

The portal

The main facade accent is on the portal. Symbolic sculptural compositions by the academy sculptors Karel Putrih and Zdenko Kalin rise up to the first floor, resting on five pillars tiled with granite from Pohorje. The top of the portal serves as a balcony.



Slovenian marble, stone and wood

The parliament building is a gallery of Slovenian stone. The interior is adorned with Slovenian marble and stone which the architect Vinko Glanz transformed into wall tiles, floorings, door frames, window shelves, stairways and pillars.

The doors and wall panels are made of oak-wood and bleached ash-wood of Slovenian origin.



The lobby of the Great Hall

The lobby of the Great Hall is the central event venue of the Slovenian parliament. It is used for receptions, protocol events, public statements and for judges taking the oath. The lobby was refurbished in 2000.



The mural

The lobby contains a mural depicting the history of the Slovenian nation from the Slav colonisation to the start of post-war renewal. The mural was completed by the academy painter Slavko Pengov in 1958 in only one hundred days.

The mural is supplemented by the permanent exhibition *The History of Slovenian Parliamentarism* opened in 2008.



The Great Hall



The Great Hall, where the National Assembly meets, was renovated in 2000. The guiding theme for the architects Sonja Miculinić, Albina Kindlhofer in Darja Valič was the high-quality and Slovenian origin of the materials used and their symbolic value in Slovenian tradition. With the deliberate use of Slovenian stone, the new hall pays tribute to the original architect Vinko Glanz.

The hall is circular, representing the period in Slovenian history when village leaders would meet in a circle under a linden tree to debate and take decisions. The circle, featuring granite flooring in the centre, is also a symbol of perfection and characterises the centre of legislative power, the seat of the highest democratic institution. The Great Hall has a floor space of 422 square metres. The 150 seats are arranged in circular pattern and slope, as in an amphitheatre, down towards an inner circle of grey Pohorje granite, where there is a partially revolving speaker's podium.

Each deputy seat is equipped with a microphone, a voting system with identification card, a headphone socket, a speaker and a laptop power plug. Chairs in dark grey leather are rotatable, moveable and can be adjusted for height.

The chairs overlooking the main entrance to the hall are the seats of the presidency of the National Assembly and the Government. The seat of the President of the National Assembly is equipped with a central voting system and a screen. On the marble wall behind the President is a bronze relief of the Slovenian coat-of-arms, a work by academy sculptor Marko Pogačnik. It was made to celebrate Slovenia's independence in 1991.

The gallery of former Presidents

The walls of the first-floor corridor, next to the entrance to the Large Reception Room, are adorned by portraits of former Presidents of the National Assembly.



The balcony and the balcony lobby

The balcony, generally intended for the public and used during protocol events also by the diplomatic corps and invited guests, was renovated together with the Great Hall in 2000. It has 106 dark grey leather seats arranged in four rows.



The balcony lobby, with marble tiling on the pillars, floor and on the walls adorned with works of art, hosts the exhibition of protocol gifts.

The Small Hall

The Small Hall is where the National Council meets. It is also used for public presentations of opinions, seminars, colloquiums and other events. The Small Hall measures 262 square metres and has 120 seats. Panelled with bleached ash-wood, it slopes down towards the presiding officer's desk as in an amphitheatre. There are galleries on either side of the hall for the press and public.



Works of art in the National Assembly

The mosaics and the mural that adorn the interior of the National Assembly are the works of recognised Slovenian artists:

Jože Ciuha, Ivo Šubic, Marij Pregelj, Ivan Seljak-Čopić and Slavko Pengov.



The reception rooms, offices and other areas feature the works of well-known Slovenian painters and sculptors:

Rihard Jakopič, Matija Jama, Matej Sternen, Božidar Jakac, France Slana, Ivan Grohar, Ivana Kobilca, Gojmir A. Kos, Nikolaj Omersa, Veno Pilon, Riko Debenjak, France Kralj, etc.



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Open Doors Days: every second Saturday of the month at 9.10 and 11 a.m. except for August.

Live broadcasts of National Assembly's sessions on TV SLO.

