

Architecture and Building

SELECTION OF COMPETITIVE DESIGNS FOR THE PROPOSED NEW PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON, N.Z.

To New Zealand Architects,—

The New Zealand Government invites designs for proposed New Parliament Buildings, Wellington, from architects residing within the Dominion. Members of the Civil Service shall not be debarred from competing.

Conditions of Competition and Instructions to Architects

Any officer in the Government service desirous of competing must prepare his designs entirely in his own time, at his own expense, and on his own premises, or at any rate not in the Government offices.

1. The design shall be for a building the first portion of which shall be erected on a site between the present temporary Parliament buildings (late Government House) and the old Parliament buildings partly destroyed by fire. Plans of the site showing the position of these buildings are available for competitors, together with the conditions, on application to the Public Works Department and on payment of £1, which will be returned to those sending in designs.

2. The building is to be designed so that a portion, comprising hereinafter described in Schedule A may be erected without preventing the continued use of the present buildings for the meeting of Parliament. On the completion of this first portion, which must provide temporary corridor connection with the two above-mentioned buildings at points marked A and B, the present wood temporary Parliament building may be removed, and the second portion of the new building proceeded with at a future date, completing the accommodation as set forth in Schedule B.

3. The cost of the first completed portion, including lighting, heating, ventilating, but excluding furniture such as desks and seats in the Legislative Chamber, shall not exceed £110,000.

4. The design of each competitor must be illustrated by a plan of each floor, sufficient sections (at least three) on such lines as may show best the general internal arrangements and design, and by at least four elevations of the complete building, all drawn to a scale of 8ft. equal to 1in. A block plan will be required to a scale of 16ft. to 1in., showing the existing buildings in relation to the portion of the new building which is first to be erected and showing the portion or portions to be erected subsequently; also showing approach roads; and lay out of the site with reduced levels indicated by figures in circles at various points all over the site. One sheet of details of a part of the external main facade drawn to a scale of 1½in. equal to 1ft. Perspective drawings are optional, but same will not receive much consideration, and they must not be framed or glazed.

5. The drawings of the elevations and sections must be executed only with pen and ink without colour of any kind, excepting that a wash of colour may be applied on the plans and sections over the area of those portions of the building that are to be erected at a later date. The elevations only may have at shadows of a light monotone cast at an angle of 45 degrees with horizontal and vertical planes to indicate projecting parts. The door and window openings and roofs may have a flat pale wash of ink or of the monotone. The walls on plans and sections must be filled in with black Indian ink only. The names of the particular rooms, with their respective measurements, to be clearly indicated on each room.

6. Drawings must be on sheets of plain paper

without border, mounted on plain stretchers of one uniform size; not more than two drawings to be placed on each stretcher.

7. Each competitor must furnish, together with his plans, a typewritten report describing the building to be erected, stating the cubical contents from the floor of bottom storey to the wall-head, and adding the exact cubic contents of the roofs and tower, or towers (if any). The competitor must also give a comprehensive description of the materials proposed to be used, the method of construction, and the system of heating and ventilation; the estimated entire cost of the execution of the completed design; also the entire cost of the portion first to be erected must be mentioned in the report; the price per cubic foot at which the competitor has estimated the various portions of the building, such cost including heating, ventilation, electric light, and other works structural as well as mechanical, necessary to fit the building for the reception of furniture, and the efficient fulfilment of its purpose.

8. Each set of drawings and relative documents must be sent in anonymously, accompanied by a sealed envelope containing only the author's name and address, and a statement that the design is the author's own work, or was prepared by assistants working under his immediate supervision. When unpacked the contents will be marked for identification; but no distinguishing mark, motto, or device is to be put on the drawing, description, envelope, or case by the competing architects or their agents.

9. The designs must be sent in, carriage paid, addressed to the Hon. the Minister of Public Works, Wellington, on or before the 31st July, 1911. Each package must be marked "Design for Proposed Parliament Buildings."

10. Premiums as follows will be awarded for the four best designs: To the design placed first, £1,000; to the design placed second, £500; to the design placed third, £300; and to the design placed fourth, £200; but no competitor shall be awarded more than one premium. Should any of the four best designs be the work of Civil Servants no premium will be awarded for such design (or designs), but in such case the Civil Servant concerned will be granted a bonus of an amount equal to the premium offered for such design.

11. A commission of 5 per cent. shall be paid to the author of the design awarded first place, provided his design is selected for execution and that he is appointed architect of the building, such commission to be calculated on the total cost of all the works designed, prepared for contract, and supervised by the architect. The commission shall include the preparation of working drawings, details and specifications in duplicate, the supervision of the work, travelling expenses, and all services usually rendered by architects. No commission or other fee shall be charged to or accepted from the contractor for supplying him with copies of the plans, etc., but such copies as may be necessary shall be furnished by the Department free of charge, as is usual in the case of Government contracts. The Government reserves the right to adopt or reject any of the designs for execution, to dispense with the architect's supervision, and to carry out the works under the supervision of its own officers, in which case only 2½ per cent. commission shall be paid the architect in full settlement for all services rendered in the preparation of working drawings, detail drawings, and specifications in duplicate, and for all services usually rendered by architects, excepting only the supervision of the works. In the event

of a design prepared by a Civil Servant being selected for execution no commission whatever will be paid.

12. The architect whose design is selected may be called upon to make any modification or alteration in his plans that the Government may desire before tenders are invited for carrying out the work, and any variation in the cost arising out of such modification or alteration shall be added to or deducted from his estimate, and the acceptance of such design shall be subject to a bona fide tender from a reliable contractor or contractors being obtained for carrying out the work within 10 per cent. of the established sum so arrived at.

13. Every care will be taken of the designs and drawings received, but the Government will not be liable for any damage that may occur to them while in their custody or in transit. The premiated designs will remain the property of the Government, but the others will be returned to their respective authors, carriage paid.

14. All the designs received in conformity with the conditions and instructions may be publicly exhibited after the award is made.

15. Competitors are left absolutely free as to architectural style; but the efficient lighting, heating, and ventilating of the interior of every part of the building will be considered of primary importance.

16. In planning the suites of rooms to be occupied by Ministers, Speakers, Leader of the Opposition, Clerks of Parliament, and other officials of the two Houses, it is recommended that they be placed as far as possible with a sunny aspect.

17. It is advisable that the Library should be planned so that as many books as practicable within the limits of cost shall be in one large hall, top-lighted, and having galleries round the walls with book-shelves. The object of this arrangement is to permit of easy supervision from a central office having glazed walls situated on the floor in the centre of the apartment. The Library should also be planned so that it will be possible to make future extensions.

18. The building must be designed so as to afford reasonable resistance to fire and earthquake shocks, and provision must be made for the use of materials best adapted for these conditions.

Schedule A of Accommodation to be provided in First Portion.

Apartments will be required for the House of Representatives, as follows:—1. Chamber to accommodate at least 100 members, to be surrounded by wide lobbies, having provision for book-shelves; desks, with drawers, to be shown for each member, arranged with seats as far as possible in pairs. 2. Galleries around the Chamber, as follows: (a) Public Gallery; (b) Speaker's Gallery; (c) Gallery for Members of the Legislative Council; (d) Ladies' Gallery; (e) Gallery for wives of Ministers, etc.; (f) Press Gallery, to seat about twenty persons in the front row (thirty inches of space to each), with further seats and desks in a back row, the desks to be twenty-one inches wide and to be provided each with a lock-up drawer and continuous narrow shelf under. This gallery to be entered as mentioned below. 3. A Press writing-room large enough to comfortably accommodate twenty correspondents at one time and fitted with at least twenty lockers for Bills and Papers; and access to the Press Gallery should, if possible, be through this room only and direct without intervening corridor. 4. A Press supper-room, about equal in size to the writing-room. 5. Speaker's rooms, as follows: (a) Office; (b) Sitting-room;