



National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff

**The Senedd is acclaimed by both
Assembly members and the
general public alike as being open,
accessible and sustainable**

Richard Wilson, Head of The Senedd Building Project Team



Place
Cardiff, Wales

Date
1998-2005

Client
National Assembly for
Wales

Cost
£41 million

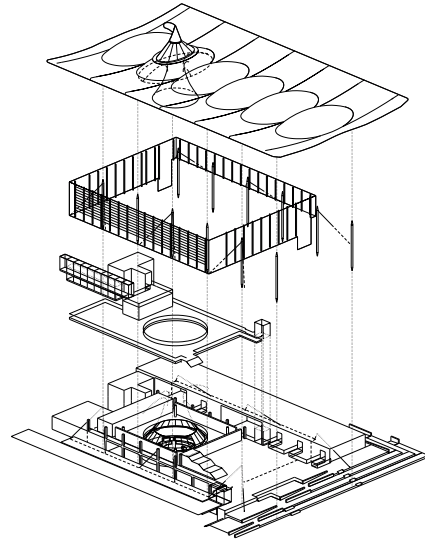
Gross Internal Area
5,308 m²

Structural Engineer
Arup

**Environmental
Consultant**
BDSP Partnership

Project Manager
Schal

Landscape Architect
Gillespies LLP



Awards

2008
Civic Trust Award

2007
Chicago Athenaeum International Award

2006
RIBA Award National

RIBA Stirling Prize Building of the Year Shortlist

The election of the Welsh National Assembly in 1999, was a turning point in the history of Wales. Its home, Cardiff's former docklands, is a striking addition to the local landscape and a statement of faith in the regeneration process. The Assembly building embodies democratic values of openness and participation, while its progressive environmental agenda establishes a new standard for public buildings in Britain.

The idea of openness is exemplified by the transparency of the building. Public spaces are elevated on a slate-clad plinth and cut away to allow daylight to penetrate the administrative spaces at lower level. A light-weight, gently undulating roof shelters both internal and external spaces, pierced by the protruding extension of the Debating Chamber. A large circular space at the heart of the building, the Chamber is defined by the dramatic roof made from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) rated Western red cedar timber, which is drawn

down from the roof above to form its enclosure.

The Assembly also includes exhibition and education spaces, a café, committee and meeting rooms, press facilities, offices for the principal officers of the Assembly and a members' lounge.

The servicing strategy responds to the varying demands of the internal spaces – air-conditioning is supplied in the debating chamber, while the public lobby is naturally ventilated. Heat exchangers capitalise on the potential of the ground as a cooling mechanism, while the thermal mass of the plinth tempers fluctuations in the internal environment. In this way, the design achieves significant energy savings compared to traditional buildings.

Hard landscaping, together with an avenue of trees, creates a public space around the Assembly and completes the jigsaw of new development in this part of Cardiff Bay.