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IS AUSTRALIA'S BILLION DOLLAR PARLIAMENT HOUSE CAUSING TOO MUCH POLITICKING ?

Melbourne-based expert **Jancy Lew** checks out the way of the winds here in Canberra.

The building took seven years to build and it cost the Australian Government over a billion Aussie dollars. Inaugurated on 9 May 1988, this Period of 7 building has many troublesome feng shui features that could be causing an excess of internal politics for the country. The building covers an area of 250,000 square meters, and sits on 32 hectares of

land. Designed by Italian architect **Romaldo Giurgola** of the famed New York based firm Mitchell/Giurgola, the building sits on top of a slope overlooking the old parliament building, facing North, with a broad expanse of space in front of the main entrance, which forms a bright hall effect for the building.

MOUNTAIN & WATER

This bright hall is good feng shui of

course, but there is more. There is a mountain behind signifying support, power and authority, and it faces a lake in front, signifying money luck. The Government of Australia will not go the way of Greece for sure. Building for prosperity is an important aspect for buildings like this for they affect the feng shui of the entire country. Beyond the lake is a "Table Mountain" which happily stores the "Chi" - so far so good, for this kind of planning is generally considered to be an excellent formation in feng shui; where mountain meets water is where the "Chi" will gather. ►

Black Tortoise mountains provide support.



Boomerang design of Parliament House.



DRAGON & TIGER WALLS

The visitor to the building will notice there are no natural mountains on either side of the building, so there is no natural Dragon and Tiger for the building; but it does seem like the builders took some kind of feng shui advice as the building design seems to simulate the “presence of these celestial creatures” via the embracing walls that stretch out on the left and on the right; basically this artificially symbolizes the Dragon and the Tiger!

Outside at the front of the building, there is a water feature. This has a circular design and activates for good growth luck. Unfortunately, this is a PERIOD 7 building, so the chi is tired, and the Period 7 flying stars are not helpful any more. The water can be a source of disharmony even as it brings good growth luck. People working in the building will thus have very mixed luck indeed.



Too many pillars cause too many shadows and cause shar chi to be created.

TWO BOOMERANGS

The building is in the shape of two boomerangs enclosed within a circle. This clearly demarcates two groups separated and going head-to-head against each other. The building structure and configuration creates a bow and arrow situation, sending “poison arrows” to each other and to themselves; in other words, the building encourages a hotbed of “internal politics”. Anyone following Australian politics will realize just how much their building is contributing to the political problems there.

As you enter from the main entrance, the entire hall is filled with columns clad in marble. This makes it look like this government needs a lot of support to hold up the house. Exposed columns are generally not encouraged in feng shui, and in this building, they do look excessive!

On the other hand, having the building in an enclosed circular design, with roads going around the building itself can also signify that the wealth does not leave the site; instead, any asset wealth created accumulates and gets retained within.

FLAGPOLE STABBING THE BUILDING?

Then there is the flagpole placed **on top the roof of the building** with the flag flown at 81 metres high. The flagpole is 12.8m by 64.4m, about the size of half a tennis court with a weight of about 220 tonnes of stainless steel. The purpose of this design was to represent the pinnacle of the parliament house, so that it is easily recognizable as the symbol of national government, and is visible by day on the outside and by night with floodlights from inside the building. In terms of feng shui design, this would look like a sharp spear waiting to fall into the center of the building, piercing into the heart! This can take a toll on the health of the people working within this building; and problems can manifest as conditions involving the internal organs or heart.

FAÇADE FULL OF HOLES

The façade of the building was designed deliberately to imitate some of the patterns of the Old Parliament House, with white colonial-style structures. However, with a design like this, it has created a view of what we call the “Holes in the Building”

syndrome, which indicates a pocket that is full of holes. Not a good sign !

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POISON ARROWS INSIDE

The interior of the Parliament House comes with many geometrical objects throughout the building, most of which are circular and semi-circular in design. Almost all the wall lights are **semi-circle in shape**, creating more poison arrows, and the interesting part of one aspect of the design are the clocks! There are 2,416 clocks used for calling members or senators to vote in this building. These geometrical designs and clocks send out shar chi daily, causing tension and aggravation throughout the building. These clocks are really everywhere to be seen!

With this short investigation, we conclude that the feng shui based on the interior design of this building is not great, and it is likely that internal problems will continue with a lot of indecisive action. However, because the **landscape design** has excellent feng shui, this can override many other feng shui obstacles in this building, hence helping the government attain wealth, power and authority. But now they just have to find a way out of the internal politics! ►

Semi-circle lights send poison arrows.



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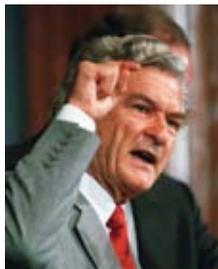
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A GLIMPSE AT AUSTRALIA'S PRIME MINISTERS WHO TOOK THEIR SEAT SINCE THE NEW PARLIAMENT HOUSE WAS BUILT



Bob Hawke was the first to take his seat in the New Parliament House as the 23rd Prime Minister of Australia (*time in office 1983 – 1991*). He was the first Prime Minister who was removed from his post by a member of his own party, Paul Keating in 1991.

Paul Keating (*time in office 1991 - 1996*) took office after Bob Hawke

was ousted, and was the first incumbent Labor Party Prime Minister to lose an election in 46 years since Ben Chifley in 1949. He was defeated in the 1996 elections by the Liberal-National coalition led by John Howard.



John Howard (*time in office 1996 – 2007*) brought Liberal-National Coalition to victory in 1996 defeating the Labor Government, ending a record of 13 years of coalition opposition. Due to his refusal to step-down and retire, it cost his party the 2007 election defeated by the Labor Party led by Kevin Rudd. He also lost his own parliamentary seat at the election and was the second Australian Prime Minister to do so since 1929.



Kevin Rudd (*time in office 2007 – 2010*) served a short term in office due to the decline in his government's support in opinion polls and growing dissatisfaction of his leadership within the Labor Party; he was ousted by his deputy Julia Gillard.



Julia Gillard (*time in office 2010 – present*).

It was a close call election, which she won by 76-74 against the Opposition Leader Tony Abbott. Ever since she was sworn in as the Prime Minister, she has made headlines as the first female Prime Minister in Australia but also for being challenged again and again by determined Opposition leader Tony Abbott, who has been in the way of all her causes since she took office in 2010. Tough times ahead for

Ms Gillard as the public grows wary of her empty promises and her choice of decisions that may affect Australia's future.



THE ECONOMY

With all the internal politics and fighting in Parliament House, the economy in Australia is still going strong, with the currency being stronger than the US dollar and staying strong despite difficult times, mainly due to the fact that Australia is strong in the export markets with the mining industries being the main export earners, followed by agriculture, industrial and transportation equipment, food processing, and the chemical and steel industries.

Australia is also well known as a wealthy country that is able to provide high-quality education, health services and social security for vulnerable groups. The property market is still booming with foreign investors buying properties around Australia. IMF reports list Australia as one of the fastest-growing advanced economies in the world at present. Australia's GDP is approximately US\$1.23 trillion and is the 13th largest economy by nominal GDP and the 17th largest as measured by Purchasing Power Parity, representing approximately 1.7% of the world economy. Australia is also ranked the 19th largest importer and exporter in the world market.

With an export of US\$48.6 billion to China in 2010 and the recent boom in China demand for Australian commodities, and with lucrative opportunities in iron ore exports for the mining industry, Australia is most definitely in the run to outpace most other advanced economies in 2011.

While Australian leadership suffers from internal in-fighting - and this is clearly predicted looking at the feng shui of its Parliamentary House - nevertheless, wealth and prosperity of the country has not been compromised. But stamping out the backstabbing could make life a lot smoother when it comes to Australian politics. ■

Jancy Lew