

# Museum of Australian Democracy Heritage Lift Modernisation Project

**Project**

Museum of Australian Democracy  
- Lift Modernisation

**Client**

Museum of Australian Democracy  
(Old Parliament House)

**Location**

Parkes, Canberra ACT

**Market**

Government

**Project Type**

Design and Construct

Designed in the early 1920s by the first Commonwealth Government architect John Smith Murdoch, Old Parliament House (OPH) is a nationally significant heritage place. A key consideration in this unique project was the strong focus on the heritage and conservation aspects of the works to meet the requirements of the Environment Protection and Bio-Diversity Act 1999 in protecting its heritage values.

**Role of A.G. Coombs ITM**

Client-Side Project Manager

Procurement, Design Finalisation, Construction and Commissioning

Extensive consultation and oversight of critical Heritage and Conservation building fixtures, fittings and finishes

As the incumbent Facilities Management provider, Integrated Technical Management delivered this project as part of the Museum of Australian Democracy's three-year capital projects program for infrastructure upgrades. Objectives for the modernisation project included delivering optimum operational and energy efficiencies, as well as improving safety and access across the facility.

Managing the industry briefing and subsequent tender and award process, ITM recommended 'Schindler Lifts' to undertake the renewal and modernisation of the client's passenger and goods lifts within the occupied and public facing general circulation and back of house areas.

Design finalisation was achieved after detailed consultation between the ITM and OPH Project Managers and the in-house Heritage

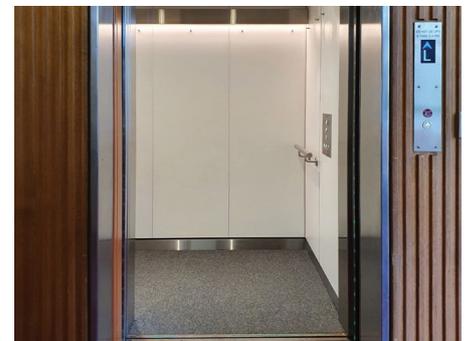
and Conservation Team, the lift supplier and structural engineers and consultants to develop a detailed construction and installation processes.

Bespoke interior and exterior finishes that met accessibility codes and heritage requirements were constructed following extensive collaboration between the project stakeholders. Significant challenges were overcome in the design and construction process. The existing equipment detail and finishes could not be replicated, considerable effort ensured that the final design and material selections acknowledged the past whilst meeting current design codes.

Further challenges were overcome during the installation process to address the heritage structure that dated back to the 1927. Accommodating the period red brick construction in the lift shafts required careful planning and design to meet current engineering guidelines for strength and stability for the installation of new lift guide rails.

The new lift components were sourced primarily from Europe and the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic significantly impacted delivery. With a commitment to complete the project on time and on budget, the ITM project team developed a revised procurement plan

and alternate installation methodologies. Local engineering manufacturing capability was used to fabricate time critical components and works were done out of normal sequence to reduce risk to the programme.

**Outcomes**

- + Delivery of bespoke vertical transport assets in a public facing cultural facility
- + Modernised Passenger and Good Lifts to meet stringent EN81-20 Standards for Vertical Transport
- + Achieves Australian Heritage Society Codes and Guidelines
- + Achieves Australian Standards compliance for Accessibility
- + Sustainability – Highly efficient equipment and systems installed

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