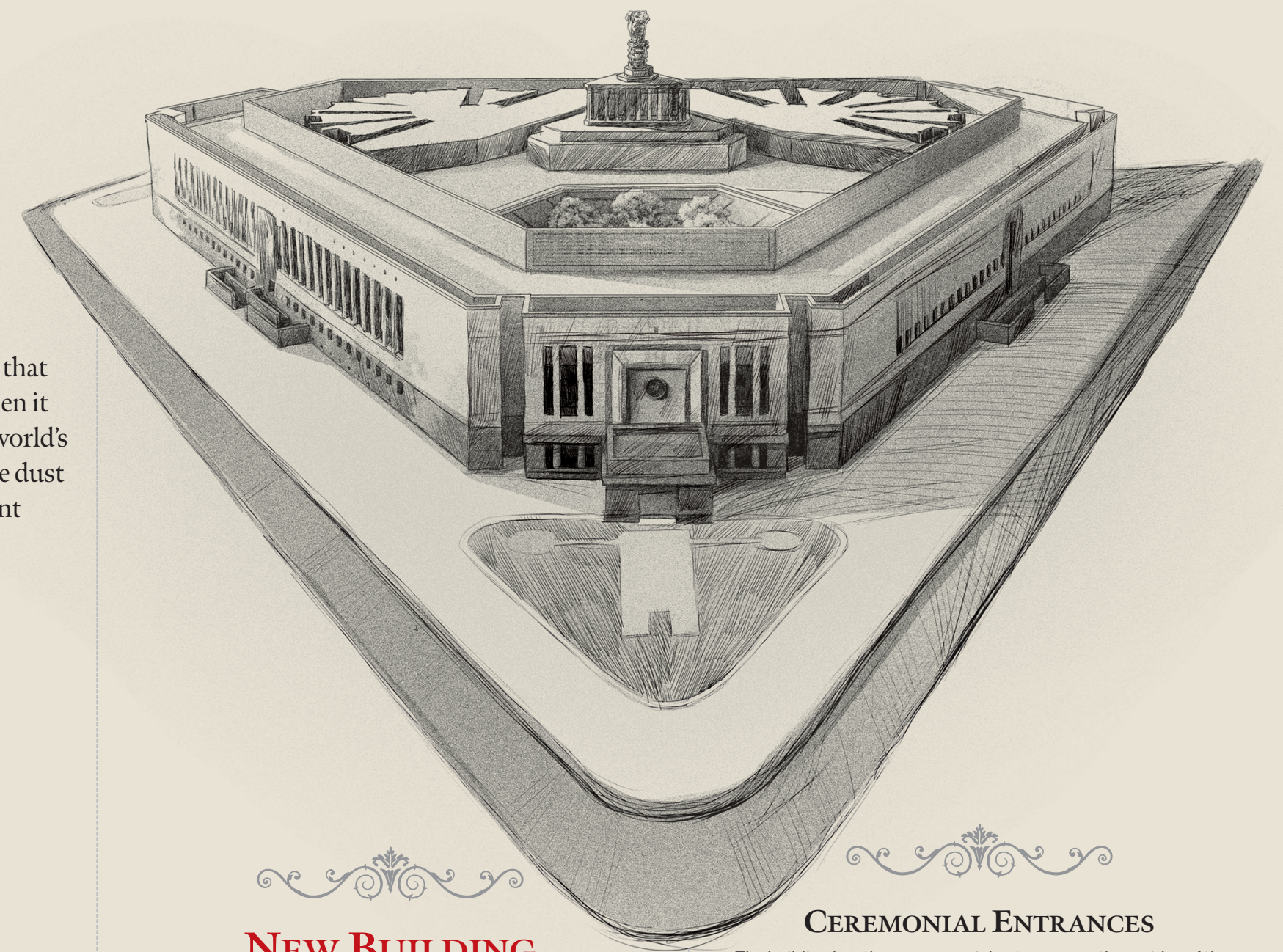


THE PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

As India gets a new Parliament building, a walk through the corridors and columns of the old building that stands witness to a vast arc of history — from the time it was the Council House of British India to when it became Independent India's first Parliament. From the chaos of argumentative debates that shaped the world's biggest democracy to the consensus that framed many a legislation. From the building that rose from the dust of a new Capital to the institution that has gracefully made way for a new beginning, a new Parliament



NEW BUILDING

The new Parliament building, designed by Bimal Patel, has three storeys and a built-up area of 64,500 sqm. The Lok Sabha chamber will have 888 seats, up from the existing 543, with the option of expanded seating up to 1,272. The Lok Sabha will be used for joint sittings of both Houses in the absence of a Central Hall, which was the fulcrum of the old building.

The Rajya Sabha chamber can accommodate 384 Members of Parliament (MPs), as opposed to the existing capacity of 250. The increased capacity of both chambers is meant to cater to any future increase in the number of MPs following delimitation.

CEREMONIAL ENTRANCES

The building has three ceremonial entrances on three sides of the triangle for the President, the Vice-President, the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Prime Minister. The entrance for the public, including visitors for the Parliament tour, is likely to be on Parliament Street, near the Press Trust of India building, where a temporary reception has been functioning throughout the construction period.

MYTHICAL STORIES

At all the entrances of the building, auspicious animals as guardian statues will be exhibited, based on their importance in Indian culture and vastu shastra. These include the elephant, the horse, the eagle, the swan, and mythical creatures *shardula* and *makara*.

THE BUILDING

Six years after the foundation stone was laid in 1921, the Parliament building — then called Council House — was inaugurated in 1927. The building, with a diameter of 570 feet, was built at a cost of ₹83 lakh



THE STRUCTURE

The building has a colonnade of 144 columns, each 27 feet high. These columns stand on a base of red sandstone which is 22 feet high.

THE CHAMBERS

The building has three legislative chambers and a library where the Constituent Assembly met and framed the Constitution of India. The dome of the library, now called Central Hall, has a span of 100 feet.

TEMPORARY OFFICES

After Independence, the Federal Court (Supreme Court) and the Federal Public Service Commission (now the UPSC) worked out of the Parliament building till their respective offices became ready.

FROM GROUND UP

For the building, 3.75,000 cubic feet of stone was quarried from Dholpur in Rajasthan and brought to Delhi by train. A circular track laid around the building brought the stone closer to the building site.



THE ARCHITECTS

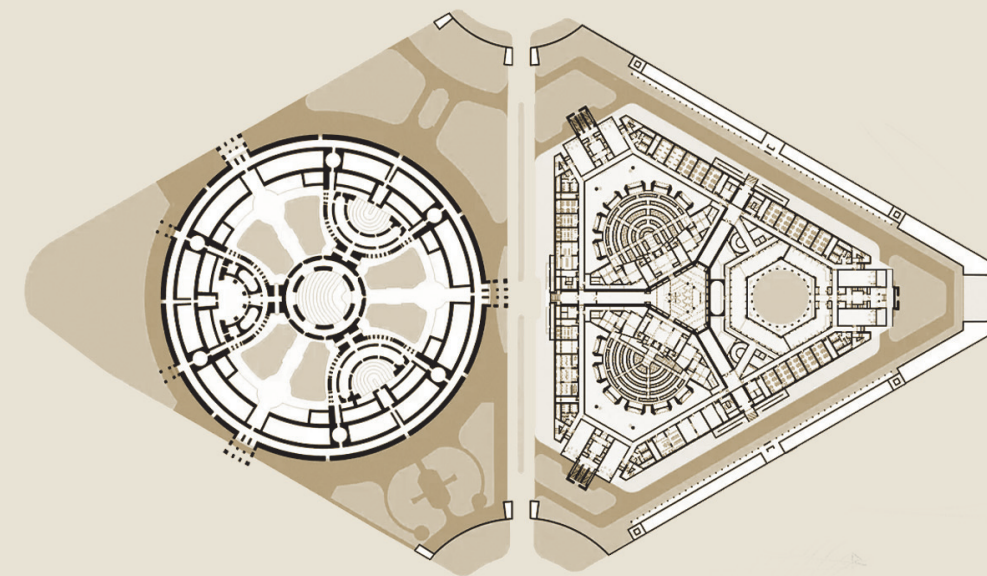
Edwin Lutyens (1869-1944) designed several country houses and war memorials in England and the residence of the British Ambassador in Washington DC. In Delhi, he also designed Baroda House and the Hyderabad House in addition to the President's House.

Herbert Baker (1862-1946) designed the gates and the first cantilevered stands of the Lord's Cricket ground in London. India House, where the Indian High Commission is located, the South Africa House and the Bank of England building are also Baker's designs.

During the construction of New Delhi, Lutyens and Baker would travel to India every winter. But their relationship had further deteriorated after disagreements on the Parliament building. On the long voyage from England to India, they would not interact with each other while travelling on the same ship.

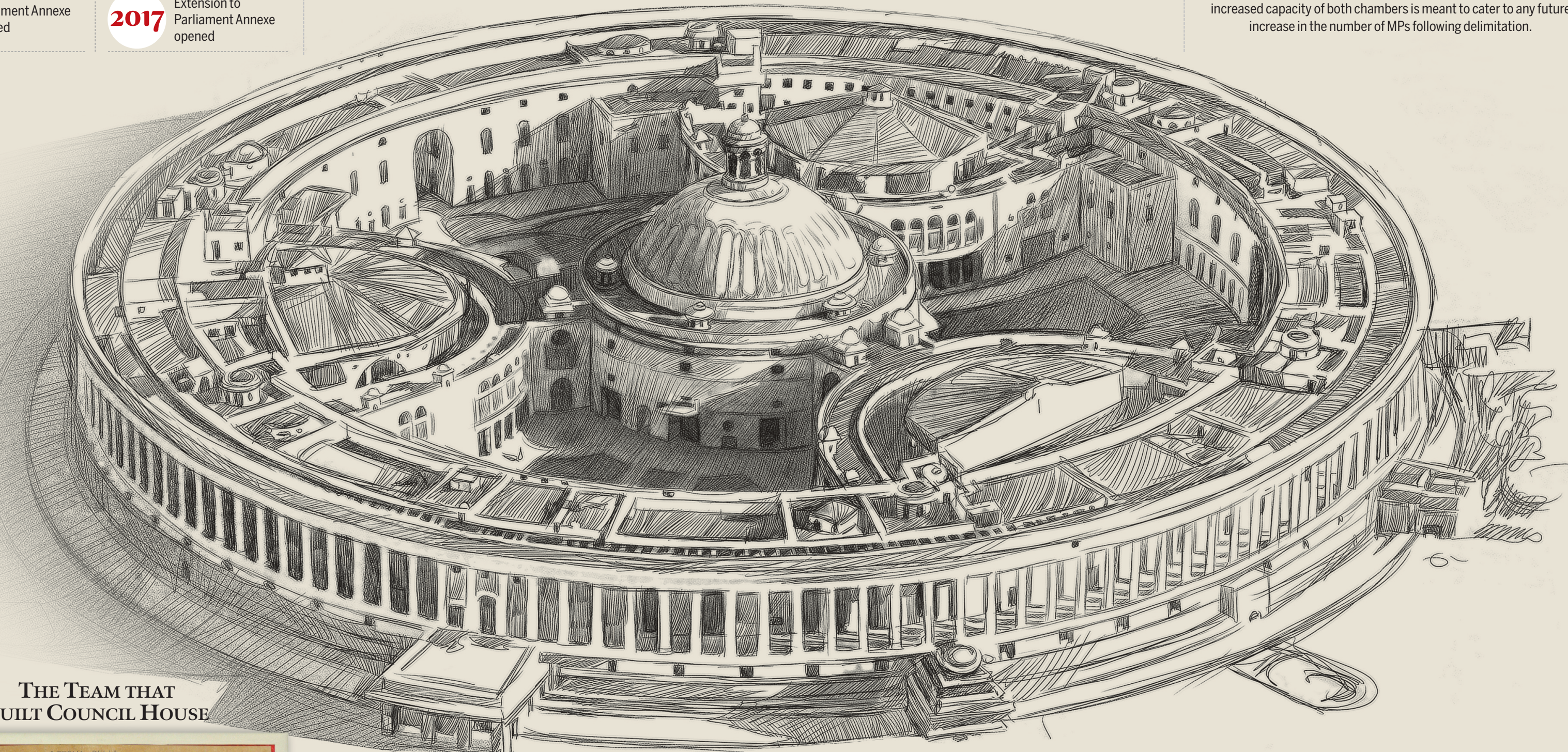
TIMELINE

1921	Foundation stone laid of Council House	1987	Foundation stone laid for Parliament Library
1927	Council House opened	1994	Bhoomi Pujan Parliament Library
1929	Attic added to Council House	2002	Parliament Library opened
1970	Foundation stone laid for Parliament Annexe	2009	Foundation stone laid for extension to Parliament Annexe
1975	Parliament Annexe opened	2017	Extension to Parliament Annexe opened

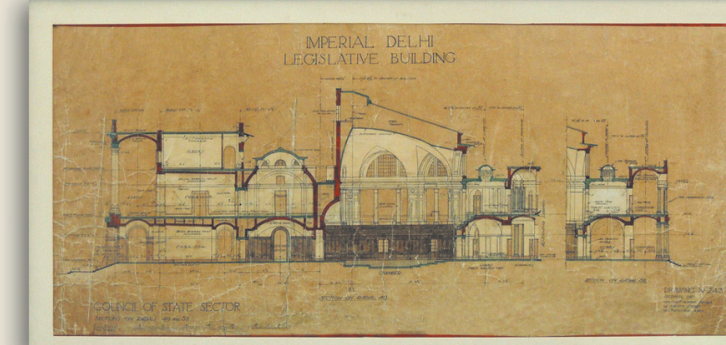


THE SITE

Parliament House stands on a triangle-shaped plot of land. Its architect Herbert Baker had initially proposed a triangular building which would complement the shape of the parcel of land. But Edwin Lutyens was opposed to the design and proposed a circular building. Lutyens, of course, had his way. A century later, the new Parliament, which stands right across the old one, is a triangular building. Baker must be smiling.



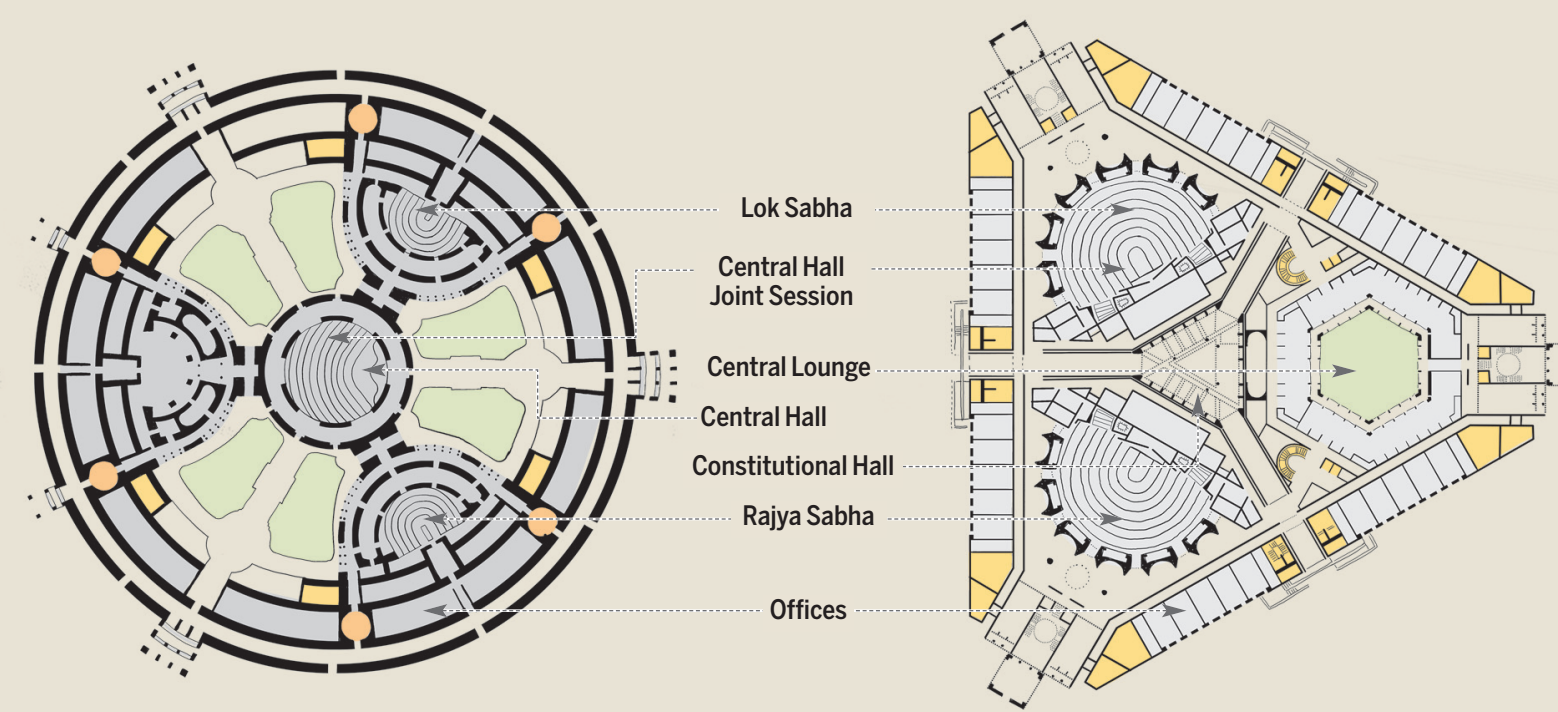
THE TEAM THAT BUILT COUNCIL HOUSE



HERBERT BAKER: ARCHITECT
HUGH KEELING: CHIEF ENGINEER
A M ROUSE: CHIEF ENGINEER
CROAD: SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
J L SALE: SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
H J BELL: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SARDAR BAHADUR SINGH: EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

CONTRACTORS OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
SETH HAROON
SETH LACHMAN DAS
NAINRAM SHEIKH NATHOO

OLD AND NEW BUILDING



Lok Sabha
Central Hall
Joint Session
Central Lounge
Central Hall
Constitutional Hall
Rajya Sabha
Offices



GANDHI STATUE

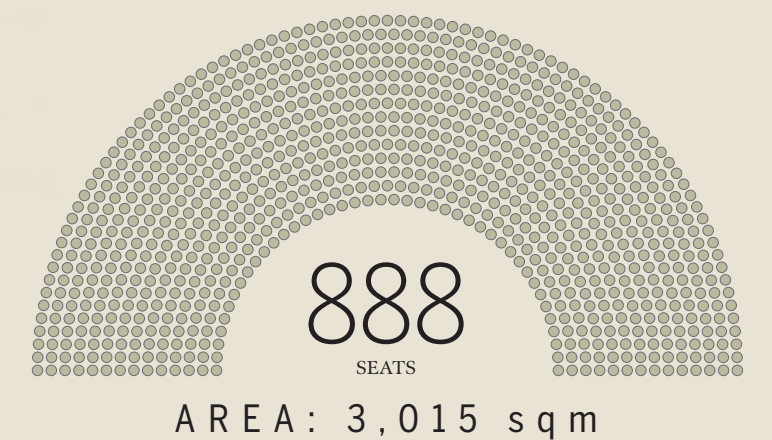
The 16-foot-tall bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi, which has been the site of numerous protests and gatherings by MPs and photo-ops for students, will remain on the lawn between the old and new buildings. The statue, which was installed at the main entrance of the Parliament House in 1993, was shifted during construction. Made by Padma Bhushan-awardee sculptor Ram V Sutar, the statue now faces the old building, near the entrance used by the Lok Sabha Speaker.



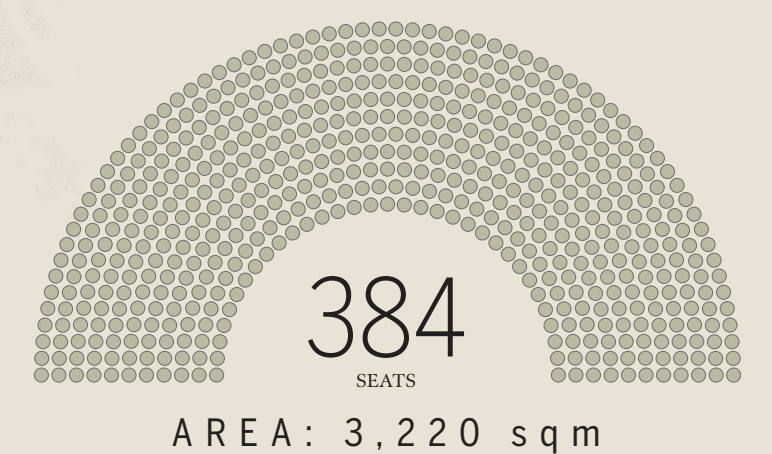
GOLDEN SCEPTRE

A golden sceptre, given to Jawaharlal Nehru on the eve of Independence to mark the transfer of power from the British, will sit in the new Lok Sabha chamber. This sceptre, which came from priests in Tamil Nadu, will be installed near the Speaker's podium.

NEW LOK SABHA CHAMBER



NEW RAJYA SABHA CHAMBER



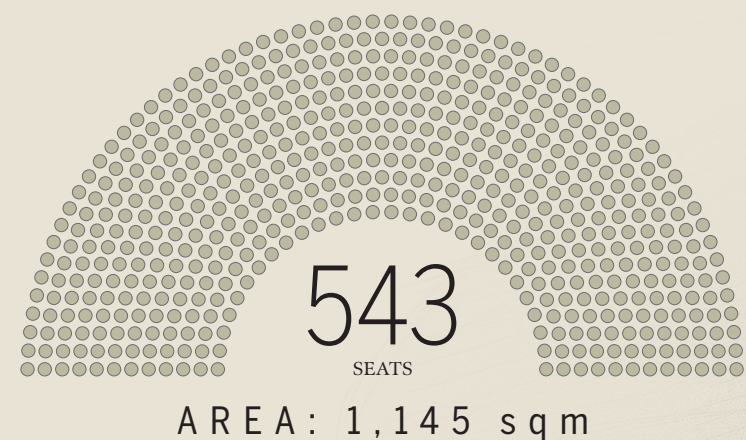
NATIONAL SYMBOLS

The building is replete with national symbols, including the national emblem — the Lion Capital of Ashoka — that weighs 9,500 kg and is 6.5 m in height, and is visible from a distance. To support this massive bronze sculpture, a structure of 6,500 kg was constructed on top of the central foyer. At the entrance, the Ashoka chakra and the words 'Satyameva Jayate' have been carved in stone.

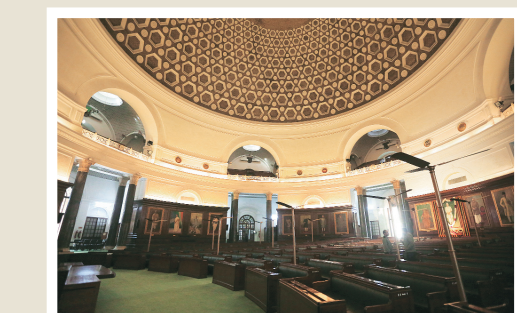
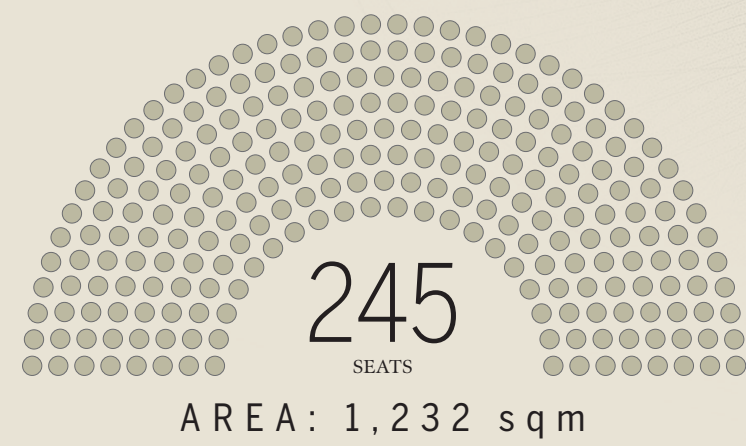
MATERIALS

For the interior and exterior of the building, construction materials have been brought in from across the country, including sandstone from Sarmathura in Dholpur and granite from Lakha village in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. Similarly, the wood used in the decor is from Nagpur and craftsmen from Mumbai have led the wooden architecture design. Bhadohi weavers from Uttar Pradesh have made the traditional hand-knotted carpets for the building.

LOK SABHA CHAMBER



RAJYA SABHA CHAMBER



EVERYONE GETS A HEARING

It is said that in the debating chambers of Parliament, every MP is audible while making an argument or silencing an opponent. But that has less to do with lung power and is a function of the acoustic design of the chamber.

WATCH THE CEILING

A collaboration between architects, academics, a Nobel prize-winning physicist and an engineer of Spanish origin brought acoustic clarity to the Parliament building. Over 40,000 acoustic tiles were imported from the USA and attached to the roof of the legislative chambers. Within a few months of the inauguration of the Parliament building in 1927, a loose tile would fall from the ceiling to the floor, nearly hitting the commander-in-chief.