

New State Parliament in Lower Saxony



Timelessly modern – the design of the new parliament hinges on transparency and openness.



Heritage listing – a true new build was realized behind the rejuvenated, heritage-listed façade.



Insights – the media gallery offers visitors a chance to watch parliament at work.

Facts

Address	Niedersächsischer Landtag Hannah-Arendt-Platz 1 30159 Hannover Germany
Gross surface area	13,800 m ²
Commissioned	October 2017
Developer	Staatliches Baumanagement Hannover
Architecture	blocher partners, Stuttgart, Germany
Photographs	Joachim Grothus, Herford, Germany

Previous state

The State Parliament of Lower Saxony has been based downtown, in the Leineschloss, since 1962. The Classicist castle ensemble served as the residence of the Hanoverian kings until 1866. Between 1957 and 1962, architect Dieter Oesterlen transformed the buildings, which had been largely ruined by bombing raids in World War II, into the State Parliament building. He added a plenary chamber on the eastern side, designing the façade as a counterpoint to the Classicist castle. With his daring new build, Oesterlen brought the historical ensemble firmly into the Modern Age. His real achievement was thus to confidently extend the

old Leineschloss while at the same time creating a new coherent structure. In line with the customs of the day, Oesterlen developed the parliamentary chambers as an introverted space within a space. The hexagonal chambers presided in a rectangular edifice, and a colonnade for the members of parliament acted to interface the different building sections. Primarily, however, the parliament remained a standalone, bereft of linkages to its surroundings, the city, and the citizens. And thus it became outdated. It no longer served current requirements and did not reflect the current understanding of democracy.



Great downtown location – opening the podium out to the surrounds links it to the city at large.