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## **ACT heritage award recognises Old Parliament House remediation project**

The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House (MoAD) has been recognised for a collaborative project to restore the iconic building following a fire that caused significant damage in December 2021.

The 'Old Parliament House Fire Remediation Project' team won the Architecture and Building Conservation Category in the 2023 National Trust (ACT) Heritage Awards.

Fire remediation works were completed on Old Parliament House after fire caused considerable damage to both the interior and exterior of the nearly 100-year-old building.

The project was a collaborative effort led by the MoAD Heritage and Capital projects team and delivered by conservators, and trades, Manteena Security (Aust) Pty Ltd, International Conservation Services, Celia Cramer Conservation, Conservation Works, Eric Martin & Associates and Art and Archival.

MoAD Director Stephanie Bull said the award was important in acknowledging and recognising the effort of many people and organisations who worked with care and determination to restore the beloved building to its former glory.

“This chapter in the history of Old Parliament House demonstrates how much this enduring symbol of Australian democracy means to our nation,” she said.

“We are grateful for the ongoing support we received from communities right across the country as well as the efforts and dedication shown by our partners in this remediation project.”

Over much of 2022, a works program was delivered to remediate widespread soot contamination, fire and water damage. The whole building was meticulously cleaned, and conservators worked to retain and reconstruct key features such as the front doors and timber parquetry in the front foyer.

Some interesting facts about the conservation work include:

- **The front doors:** due to their laminated construction with four layers, around 65 per cent of the original doors have been able to be retained. The outer layer of timber was irreparable and had to be fully replaced. Conservators used close-matching jarrah wood to replace the sections that were extremely damaged.
- **The portico:** the portico has been reconstructed based on the original 1959 design and the original steel frame was able to be re-used.
- **The front foyer:** as a result of severe water damage, the foyer was reconstructed using salvaged jarrah wood from demolished houses in WA that were built in the 1920s and 1930s. The result is that the replica floor looks very similar to the original.

**Media enquiries:** [media@moadoph.gov.au](mailto:media@moadoph.gov.au) or 02 62708120

**Image gallery:** [Old Parliament House remediation project](#)

**Image caption:** Museum of Australian Democracy staff and project partners from the ‘Old Parliament House Fire Remediation Project’ team are presented with a 2023 National Trust (ACT) heritage award.