

Owner/Client: The Welsh Assembly | Architect/Designer: Richard Rogers Partnership | Main Contractor: Taylor Woodrow | Principal Stone Contractor: Allard Natural Stone | Stone Supplier: 1)Welsh Slate 2)Allard Natural Stone | Stone Used: 1)Slate 2)Chinese granite |

### The project

It was stipulated that the National Assembly of Wales should have a minimum 100-year life span and, wherever possible, use Welsh materials. Slate was chosen at the competition stage. The architects chose the Blue Grey slate of Cwt-y-Bugail quarry for its consistent colour that complemented the roof tiles on the adjacent Pierhead Building. Forming the plinth to the building, the slate helps form a series of terraces leading down to the water's edge and provides an extension of the natural landscape of the country itself. In the public areas inside the building the plinth also rises as a series of terraces that form a variety of spaces and volumes underneath the undulating roof. The slate floors have a riven finish chosen for its slip resistance. The chosen module of the slate panels at a nominal width of 300mm was derived from the established manufacturing process for making slate roof tiles. The same module is used throughout all horizontal surfaces of the building as well as the external works. The setting out point is the centre of the debating chamber, symbolically radiating out in the same way as decisions made there will radiate out to the people of Wales. External load-bearing walls use a pillared face, similar to how the stone is found in the quarry. The coursework has been raked out to emphasise the strata effect. Silver grey granite has been used to delineate the road, parking bays and pedestrian crossing points.



### Judges comments

“ A total understanding of the indigenous slate and the care in its selection and detailing gives a profound sense of place. A very sophisticated project, worthy of the National Assembly for Wales. ”

