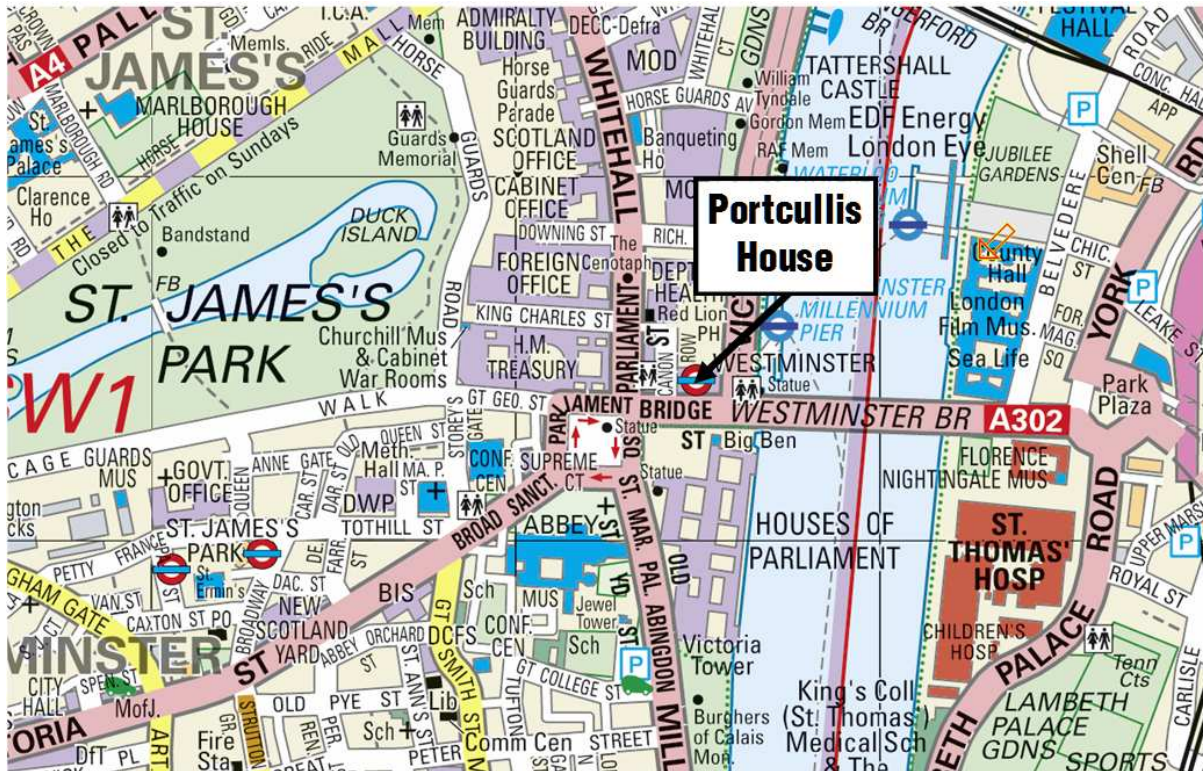




City of Westminster Portcullis House



Portcullis House is an office building in Westminster, London, UK, that was commissioned in 1992 and opened in 2001 to provide offices for 213 Members of Parliament and their staff, augmenting limited space in the Palace of Westminster and surroundings.

The architects, Michael Hopkins and Partners, published their design in 1993 and the existing buildings on the site were demolished in 1994. At the same time, London Underground was building the Jubilee Line Extension, including a new interchange station at Westminster tube station which occupies the same area; the two were thus designed and built as a single unit. Construction began with works to the existing District Line station at sub-basement level. The track had to be lowered slightly and underpinned to allow the extensive excavation to the Jubilee Line many feet below. The building above ground began to rise in 1998 and opened in 2001. It is located at the corner of Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment, overlooking the River Thames.



The building is named after the chained portcullis used to symbolise the Houses of Parliament on letterheads and official documents. Portcullis House accommodates about one third of Members of Parliament; other Members and Parliamentary departments have offices in the two Norman Shaw Buildings, at 1 Parliament Street, at 7 Millbank and in the Palace of Westminster itself.

Contemporary portraiture in Portcullis House



Specialist guided tours focusing on the art and architecture of Portcullis House are available on selected Fridays throughout 2012.

What does the tour cover?

This is a rare opportunity to view Portcullis House, the only new building commissioned by Parliament since the Palace of Westminster in the 19th century. It was designed by leading British architect Michael Hopkins and officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen in February 2001.

Portcullis House is the home of the House of Commons contemporary portrait collection. This unique collection of art records leading Parliamentarians in paintings, works on paper and photographs. The collection reflects a diversity of styles and approaches by leading UK based artists working over the last 50 years. All the works were commissioned or acquired by the Works of Art Committee.

The tours take about 75 minutes and include a visit to the first floor Committee Corridor of Portcullis House.

Times and availability

Visitors attending this tour should arrive at the Victoria Embankment entrance of Portcullis House and allow 15 minutes before the tour begins to allow time to pass through security.

Tours are available 16 and 30 March, 25 May, 29 June and 20 July at 9.45am, 11.30am, 2.15pm and 4pm

Booking

Tickets for tours can be booked:

- Online on the [ticketmaster website](#)
- By telephone on 0844 847 1672

Ticket prices

- Standard: £15.00
- Groups (10+): £12.00

Security information

A number of simple security measures have been put in place for the safety of all our visitors. Please take note of them before and during your visit.

- Searches, similar to those used in airports, will be conducted on entry
- Mobile phones must be turned off
- Cameras cannot be used

<http://www.parliament.uk/visiting/visiting-and-tours/overseasvisitors/art-and-architecture-tours/>

