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When, in 1982, it was decided that the old San Rafael Hospital should be renovated to be used as the seat of the Regional Assembly (presently known as Parliament), the building was abandoned and virtually in ruins. The only structures still in place were the external facades facing calle Alta, as well as the courtyard and internal wall facades defining the back of the portico-gallery.

The renovation was subjected to a national public tender for draft projects, out of which the one submitted by architects José Manuel Sanz Sanz and Juan López Riboo was chosen. In renovating it, the aim was to maintain the main and most unique feature of the building, the Courtyard, around which all Parliament services are located. In turn, for the courtyard to continue to be the main feature of the building, it was necessary to relieve it from the harsh northern weather, which is why it was covered with a large crystal dome. This has meant that Parliament has a large reception area, which is also used as a stage for institutional events and occasions. Some of the other locations and spaces designed in the old building structure, such as the semi-cylindrical structure where the Plenary Chamber or the Plenary Sessions Hall are, harmoniously contrast with the straight-line style of the rest of the building. In conclusion, the building where the Parliament of Cantabria is presently located, the reconstruction of which was launched on April 6, 1987, sums up the last two hundred years of Cantabrian History and constitutes a perfect concoction of Neo-classicism and Modernity.

