



# Creation of steel frame glass elevators for improved accessibility in public historic buildings.

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## IS IT:

*Product*

*Technology*

*Equipment*

## APPLICABLE FOR:

*Restoration*

*Rehabilitation*

*New Construction*

## APPLICABLE ON:

*1. Foundations and underground structures*

*2. Vertical structures*

*3. Horizontal structures and vertical connections*

*4. Roof and terraces*

*5. Façade and building envelope*

*6. Finishes and completion elements*

*7. Integrated services*

*8. General strategies for building recovery*

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***Related companies: No companies; university research; structural study.***

## **DESCRIPTION**

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New contemporary steel frame-glass elevators erected in public historic buildings when the context surrounding the historic building allows it and when level-to-level transport is required helps provide access for people with disabilities, as it is a human right for all people to move freely and enjoy a cultural venue.

## **WHY TO USE**

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The main purpose for erecting steel glass elevators is to secure the right of access to the upper levels of buildings for everybody.

The use of glass in such structures safeguards the visual accessibility to the exterior. At the same time, by using transparent glass the whole façade remains visible behind this addition.

These new structures with their lightness and simplicity contrast favorably with the original compact stone structures and are in harmony with the old fabric.

## **HOW TO USE AND APPLY**

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The structures of the elevators are made of glass with a steel frame and are often erected outside the historic buildings, against secondary facades, perhaps towards adjacent yards, in order to avoid any alteration of the main façades of the buildings.

## **TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS**

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The elevator structures are often erected on-site utilizing steel and glass elements. Special care is given to the connection between these new erected structures and the old fabric.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION**

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These steel-frame and glass structures should be easily distinguishable from the old fabric and should be reversible.

Special care should be given to preserve the original detailing of the roof of the historic building, by keeping a small distance between the new structure and the original historic building.

These elevators should probably have simple forms without any decorations so that they may be integrated successfully within the historic building and the surrounding context.

## **EXAMPLES**

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The case of a historic building in Paphos reused for public purposes.

The case of the Leventis Museum, Nicosia.

[See attached images at the end of this sheet].

## **REFERENCES / SOURCES AND LITERATURE**

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<https://leventismuseum.org.cy/the-museum/museum-history>

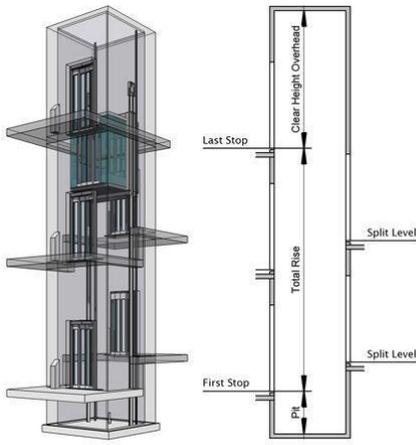
<https://inhabitat.com/beautiful-brick-and-glass-elevator-connects-old-and-new-parts-of-historic-catalan-town/>

## **WEBSITE OF THE COMPANY**

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N/A

## IMAGES AND CAPTIONS



The glass elevators are usually located outside historic buildings connecting the different levels of the structure. The old historic buildings were previously only accessible via a staircase, making the daily commute between the different levels difficult, especially for the elderly and families with kids. By building the elevator, the connectivity between the different levels is enhanced. The glass surfaces of the elevators allow users to observe the surroundings.

The load-bearing steel structure of the elevators, lined on all sides with glass with an overview, forms the elevator shaft. The glass is anchored to the supporting steel structure of the lift. The glass is usually self-supporting, but only to a certain height. The rear and front parts are attached separately, or the elevator shaft is formed as a whole perimeter frameless structure. Glass is captured through stainless steel targets as standard.

Fig.1: Glass elevator. A 3d and a section of a typical glass elevator structure.



Fig.2: The Leventis Museum in Nicosia, View from the courtyard showing the newly erected elevator.  
©Architect: Pefkios Georghiades Office (Source: <https://leventismuseum.org.cy/the-museum/museum-history>)



Fig.3: Contemporary elevator. While most architects tend to design elevators using almost exclusively artificial materials and glass, Enrich's approach was more conscientious and proves that even the most utilitarian architectural elements can be contextual and compatible with traditional architecture.

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Fig.4: Traditional urban building in Paphos, restored and reused for public purposes. View showing the newly erected glass elevator (Architect: Petros Stamataris). ©*Maria Philokyrou*