GILLESPIE
corporation SINCE 1923
Elevators ▪ Material Lifts ▪ Cranes

34 Pine Street, P.O.Box 359, Ware, MA 01082
TEL 413.967.4980 **FAX** 413.967.9534
www.gillespiecorp.com

HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ACCESSIBILITY SYSTEM Surmounts Space Challenges

Lift System Makes U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SPEAKER'S ROSTRUM *Wheelchair-Accessible*
Washington, D.C.

GIVING EVERYONE A VOICE

Steeped in grandeur, elegance and historical significance, the U.S. House of Representatives has a commanding aura like few other places. In a very real sense, it is the seat of democracy, inviting all citizens to invoke their right to be heard. Ironically, however, prior to 2010 the Speaker's rostrum was exclusionary in the most flagrant of ways: It could not accommodate wheelchair-bound individuals. Accordingly, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), it was decided to make the rostrum wheelchair-accessible.

THE CHALLENGE: Contending with Severely Constricted Space

Since preserving the dignity of the chamber was the highest of priorities, Gillespie engineers had to ensure that their design and construction rendered the lifts unobtrusive and virtually indistinguishable from the existing structure. In addition, while Gillespie was initially advised there was ample space beneath the floor to hold the required equipment, further investigation revealed that only 8.5" maximum were available.

THE SOLUTION: A Two-Step Accessibility System

Recognizing that getting from the House floor to the Speaker's rostrum required climbing three steps, making a 90° turn and then climbing three more steps, Gillespie's engineers designed a highly sophisticated, two-lift system that would mimic this process and replicate it in operation. Replacing two platforms that were part of the rostrum's six steps, each lift covers three levels, with an extending platform to span steps as well

HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ACCESSIBILITY SYSTEM
Surmounts Space Challenges *(continued)*

as automatic curbs to allow or restrict wheelchair movement at every level. All operations are constant-pressure, and a network of switches, hydraulic cylinders and electromechanical actuators controll every operation.

The first lift covers the bottom three levels, beginning on the House floor and travels to the halfway point. The second lift then travels the remainder of the way to the Speaker's rostrum. When not functioning as transporting devices, the carpeted lifts serve as the first and fourth steps of the rostrum.

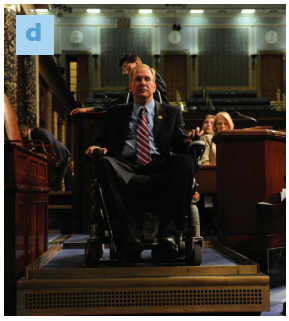
On July 26, 2010, Congressman Jim Langevin, a quadriplegic, presided over the U.S. House of Representatives the first time a wheelchair-bound member had mounted the rostrum as acting Speaker. To this day, Gillespie takes enormous pride in having participated in this most admirable of projects.

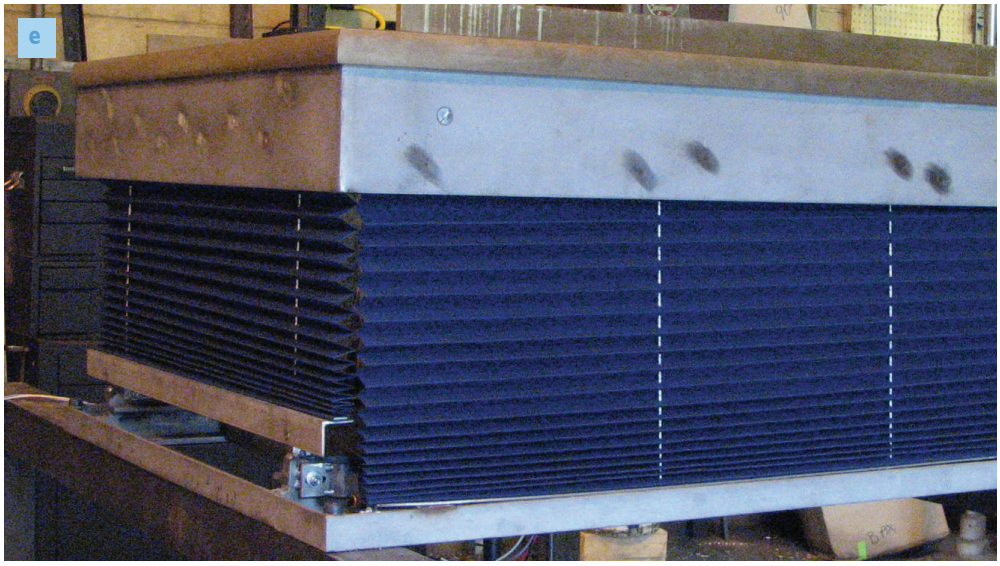
"I have long said that I may be the first quadriplegic to serve in Congress, but I won't be the last. This is an extremely proud moment for me and helps renew my spirit as we continue to remove barriers and strengthen the ADA for millions of Americans with disabilities in the decades to come." - Congressman Jim Langevin

AWARDS

Elevator World 2011 Project of the Year *(tie)*
(Category: Accessibility Systems)

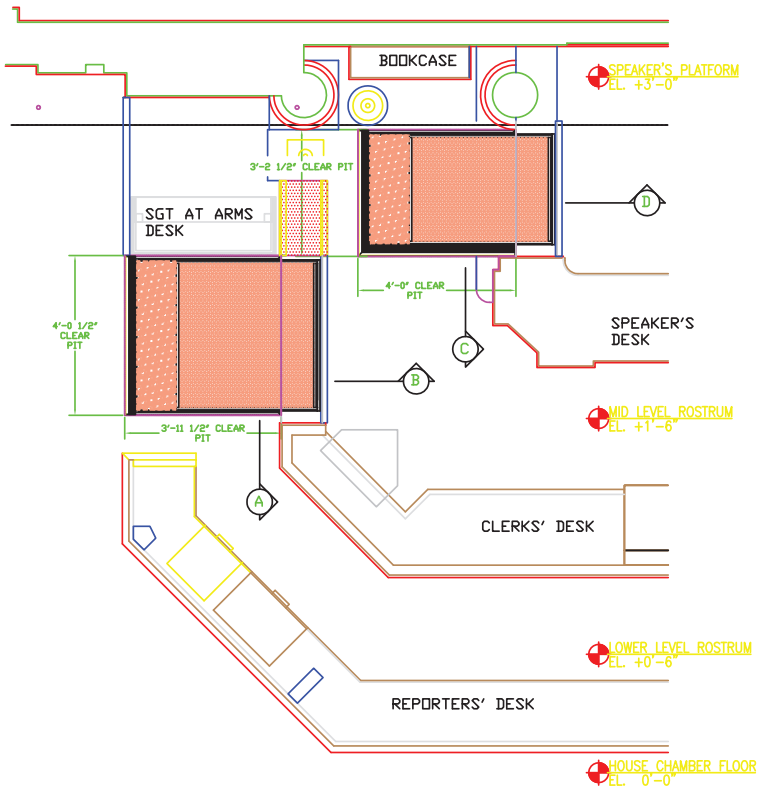
HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ACCESSIBILITY SYSTEM
Surmounts Space Challenges *(continued)*





a *Lift in operation* **b** *Lift mechanism* **c** *Car Operating Panel (COP)*
d *Retractable curb in up position* **e** *Lift with toe guard barrier*

HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED ACCESSIBILITY SYSTEM
Surmounts Space Challenges *(continued)*



BY GILLESPIE

CONTROLLER: CONSTANT PRESSURE, RELAY LOGIC, NEMA 1 ENCLOSURE
(1) NEMA 1 CONTROL STATION PER DRAWING, CAST BRONZE FACEPLATE.
NEMA 1 MOTION CONTROL SWITCHES.
STAINLESS STEEL PLATFORM PLATES, ALL STRUCTURAL FRAMING.
TWIN 115/1/60 ACTUATORS FOR VERTICAL MOTION.
TWIN 12VDC ACTUATORS FOR HORIZONTAL MOTION.
TWIN INDUSTRIAL DRAWER SLIDES FOR HORIZONTAL MOTION.
FOUR 12 VDC ACTUATORS FOR INDEPENDANT CURBING, WITH ALL LINKAGES AND HARDWARE.
FOUR BRONZE 1/4"x1 1/2" HIGH ANTI-ROLLOFF CURBS.
BALCO BT-300L BRONZE NOSING PER DRAWINGS.
TRAVELING CABLE, SHAFTWAY WIRING, UNDERCAR BOX.
18 ga ALLOY 220 COMMERCIAL BRONZE CLADDING ON SURFACES INDICATED.
1/4"x3/4" BAR TRIM ON ALL NON-NOSING PLATFORM EDGES.
ALL BEARINGS, CAM FOLLOWERS, AND HARDWARE AS REQUIRED.

BY OTHERS

PROVIDE ELECTRIC POWER TERMINATED IN FUSED DISCONNECT SWITCH,
OR CIRCUIT BREAKER SIZED FOR ELECTRICAL LOADS.
CLEAR PIT DIMENSIONS AS PER DRAWINGS.
SHAFTWAY CONDUIT TO CONTROLLER AND CONTROL STATION LOCATIONS..
CARPETING ON EXPOSED FACES.

ELECTRICAL LOADS

(2) LARGE ACTUATORS 115/1/60 5.3 FLA
(2) 12 VDC ACTUATORS 4.5 FLA
(4) 12 VDC ACTUATORS 4.5 FLA

MODEL PHH-SP
HIDDEN HANDICAP ACCESS LIFT

Rostrum Plan View

DUTY (lbs)	750
VOLTAGE	220/1/60, 115/1/60

GILLESPIE CORPORATION
WARE, MASSACHUSETTS

BUILDING:	U.S. House of Representatives
LOCATION:	Washington, DC
ARCHITECT:	KCCT Architects
INSTALLER:	
ENGINEER JCL	DATE 10/26/08
CHECK	FILE NAME 9286.dwg
SO NO 9286	SHEET 1 OF 13