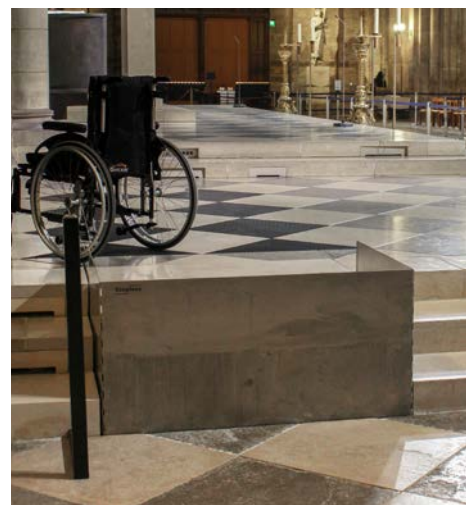
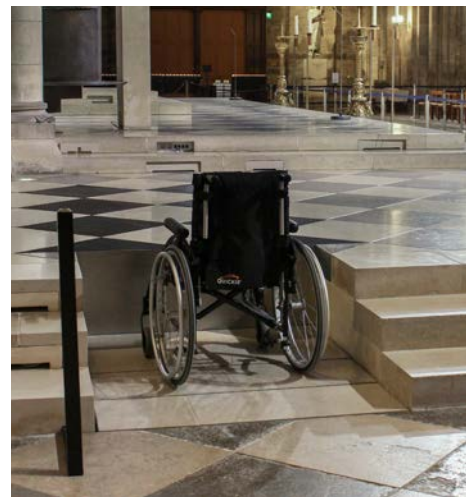
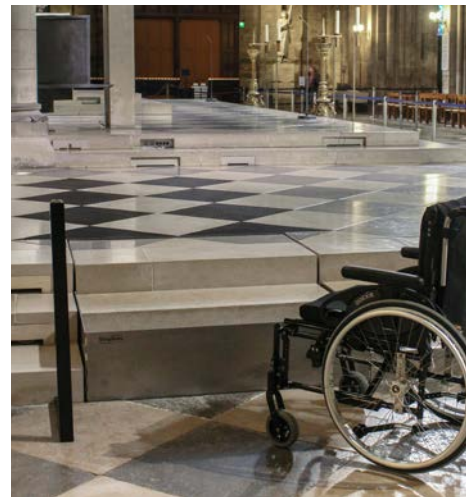


# Dignified access for all at **Notre Dame**





**Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris receives 30,000 visitors a day. Very few of them however will notice the three steps that lead up to the altar at the heart of the 650-year-old listed building. Visitors have free access to the altar when there is no mass in progress. But until 2015, this free access did not include the cathedral's wheelchair users. Now, a customised lift solution from Denmark's Stepless by Guldmann has changed all this.**

#### **International architect at the helm**

Internationally renowned architect, Benjamin Mouton, is in charge of architectural design at Notre Dame. The solution for Notre Dame was designed and manufactured at Guldmann's studio in Aarhus, so close collaboration between the development department and the French architect, as well as the contractors, was crucial to the end result.

- "If you make a mistake in a solution like this one, things can easily go very wrong. That's why we were in close communication with the team in France, and we took the time we needed to create a unique solution," says Jørgen Guldmann.

#### **Moonlighting in the cathedral**

Clearly, nothing went wrong. The hydraulic lift, which weighs more than 400 kg, was transported to Paris in October 2014, about a year after the initial meeting. That's when the night shifts started for Guldmann's installers and the craftsmen who had to carve the hole in the floor. The client required the process to be performed outside the cathedral's opening hours, and since there are often concerts in the cathedral in the evenings, which clearly could not be disrupted, the only time that was left was the night.

#### **Facts about the lift:**

<b>Surface:</b>	Sandstone
<b>Protective casing:</b>	Stainless steel
<b>Load, max.:</b>	400 kg.
<b>Operation:</b>	Assistant operated

The lift was officially brought into service in February 2015.

The lift in the Parisian cathedral is currently used around ten times a day, a figure that Guldmann's country manager for France, Emmanuel Ferlay, expects to increase to around 100 as the cathedral's disabled visitors become aware of the existence of this discrete facility.

Guldmann frequently receives enquiries from architects the world over requesting a demonstration of and further information on the solution installed in Notre Dame.

On reflection, Jørgen Guldmann has this to say about the project:

- "The lift that we installed in Notre Dame has enhanced our knowledge and experience to such an extent that we can now devise solutions for even more complex special projects in listed buildings."

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*Jørgen Guldmann*

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