



Dignitaries look up at the new elevator at the Athens Acropolis; photo courtesy of the Greek government.

New Elevator Eases Access to Athens Acropolis

A new, wheelchair-accessible elevator was put into service at the Athens Acropolis on December 3, 2020, according to the Greek Reporter. With its glass cab, the elevator will allow riders to see nearly unobstructed views of Athens. The bottom landing sits at the ancient promenade on the north slope of the Acropolis, and riders are taken directly to the top of the hill. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said the elevator is “an iconic project to the global community, on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.” He said the new elevator and new pathways make the Acropolis more accessible to those with mobility difficulties. The new inclined elevator replaces a failure-prone platform lift installed on the side of the hill in 2004.

EFESME Holds Assemblies

The European Federation for Elevator Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (EFESME) Board of Directors and General Assembly took place online on December 17, 2020. EFESME reported that, in them, members discussed the several technical and political activities carried out during 2020 in the face of the year’s many challenges. It added

that members expressed satisfaction in the results of the association and its experts. The many virtual meetings the federation attended and the events it organized were highly regarded.

The importance of the collaboration between the European Commission and EFESME was another focal point. Such strong

cooperation is supported by the commission’s frequent participation in EFESME events and by the good relationships between its officers and experts, EFESME explained. Likewise, members were pleased with the work and activities performed in conjunction with Small Business Standards and looked forward to more.

Two-Tower Project Planned on Brisbane's West End

A developer is planning a two-tower, 470-unit residential project and riverside public space on a 1.1-ha tract in Brisbane, Australia’s West End, The Urban Developer reported in December 2020. The project, to be undertaken by Manly Properties, would involve dual 26-story buildings. One, with 21,000 m² of space, would have 200 apartments, while the other, with 27,500 m², would have 270 units. Manly, a subsidiary of Sydney-based investment group Henroth, is seeking to change the site’s master plan by expanding the public plaza and creating a 4,000-m² public park. The original site plan called for fewer apartments spread across five buildings. Under the new plan, residents in each building will have access to a rooftop recreation deck with gardens, pools, barbecue facilities and a gym. The project also calls for a lounge and bar on the third and fourth levels, a “sky dining” room, five basement levels of parking for 741 vehicles, and parking for 730 bicycles. The towers will each target a 6-Star Green Star sustainability rating. A construction timeline was not reported.



Rendering of Manly’s proposed two-tower residential project on Brisbane’s West End; image by nra-co-lab