

The legend lives on in Manhattan

When Madison Square Garden calls itself “The World’s Most Famous Arena”, few disagree. It has a rich history of hosting nearly every major name in music, all-star athletes, national political conventions, and numerous world-famous shows and events. Renovating the iconic building was neither quick nor easy, but the transformation ensures the facility will continue to be a legendary venue well into the future.

The indoor arena has been in its present location since 1968 and is currently home to two major New York sports teams. After years of high traffic use, the arena was in need of a major transformation to meet the expectations of today’s spectators.

Modern equipment, maximum benefit

As part of the USD 1 billion renovation, KONE was brought in to modernize the existing elevators and escalators, ensuring optimal people flow for the crowds of 18,000 and more frequently visiting the arena.

“We replaced the existing escalator equipment with KONE’s lighter, more efficient systems,” says **LeVaur Livingstone**, KONE Regional Project Manager. “The new glass designs also fit extremely well with the layout of the arena.”

KONE installed 45 new eco-efficient escalators to fully replace the old equipment. In addition, the KONE EcoMod™ escalator modernization solution was utilized to upgrade the entire workings of three escalators without removing the existing trusses.

“The modernized equipment has more advanced safety and energy efficient features compared to the old equipment,” Livingstone says. “That makes for more comfort and reliability for the passengers.”

KONE also managed the installation of five new elevators.

Home team advantage

Transforming a major site in crowded midtown Manhattan poses logistical problems of its own. To further complicate matters, Madison Square Garden is home to the New York Knicks basketball team and New York Rangers ice hockey franchise, and the owners wanted to keep the arena open for the full seasons.

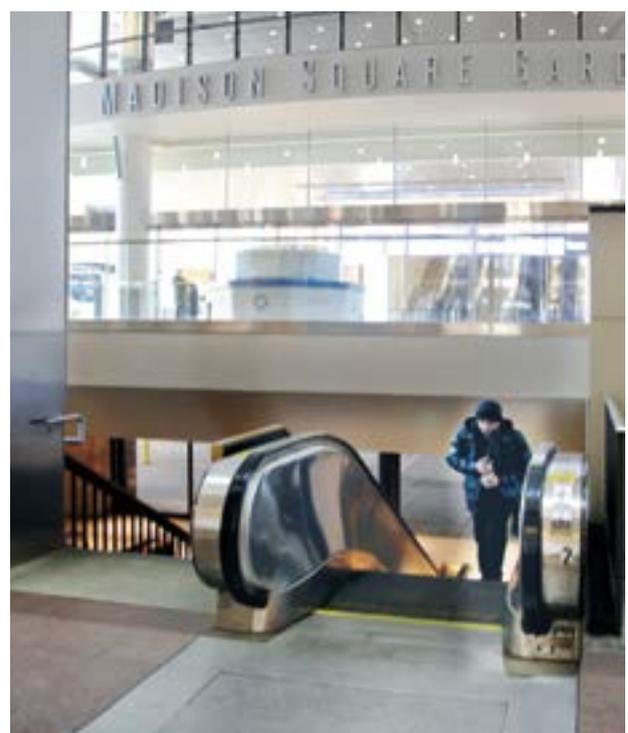
As a result, the venue was only available for renovation over the summer off-season with work carried out over three years. “We had to carefully map out the job, draw up a detailed schedule and then coordinate the schedule with the other parties involved,” Livingstone says.

Even getting the old equipment out of the building took a great deal of ingenuity. To minimize the temporary access required, existing equipment was removed through the windows on the second floor. Later, all new equipment was hoisted through the windows and into position.

“There was a lot of planning and engineering that went into this transformation,” says **Frank Gramarossa**, Project Executive at Turner Construction Company, the contractor on the project.

Gramarossa adds, “We knew each other going in and that is an advantage. It made the planning and the collaboration much easier. When push came to shove, KONE got it done. It was a very successful undertaking on both sides.”

KONE will maintain the equipment at Madison Square Garden and will have two service technicians on site during events to keep the equipment in peak running condition.





SUMMARY

Challenge

- To modernize escalators in a multipurpose arena on an extremely tight work schedule when resident sports teams are on hiatus
- To ensure smooth logistics of people and equipment while working on a busy downtown site

Solution

- Proactive planning and scheduling, as well as close coordination with the builder
- Use of innovative installation and site clearance methods to optimize efficiency and minimize public inconvenience

FAST FACTS

Madison Square Garden

- Completed: 2013
- Capacity: 18,000
- Building owner: The Madison Square Garden Company
- Developer: Van Deusen Associates
- Architect: Brisbin Brook Beynon Architects
- Contractor: Turner Construction Company

KONE Solutions

- 45 KONE Eco3000™ escalators
- 3 KONE EcoMod™ escalators
- 5 hydraulic elevators
- 12 elevators modernized
- KONE Care™ Maintenance Service