

Quincy House Accessibility Improvements, Harvard College



We designed a three-year project to make Quincy House – one of the undergraduate river houses at Harvard – fully accessible for persons with disabilities.

Built in 1958, Quincy House features duplex student suites with internal stairs and skip-stop elevators, formerly serving only three of six floors. The dining hall is on the second story, previously without elevator access.

Our project included creating 16 one-level accessible student rooms (configured in an equivalent variety of single, double, triple and quad suites), modifying the skip-stop elevators to add new stops, creating a new corridor at the 4th floor, adding an entirely new elevator for the dining hall, widening the entry door to every student suite, converting a student grille area to become accessible, and adding ramps to eliminate stairs in circulation areas, common rooms and at the dining hall stage.

On behalf of Harvard, we successfully obtained a variance from the State Building Code (related to egress from the dining hall). Challenges of the project included designing for an elevator pit below ground water and short summer construction schedules.

Construction summers 2005, 2006, 2007

