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(54) **RACKING SYSTEM AND METHOD**

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CPC ***A47B 83/00*** (2013.01); ***A47B 47/00*** (2013.01)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

There is provided a racking system comprising: at least two rows of rack configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between; a platform assembly; and a ladder engageable with the platform assembly. The platform assembly comprises: a walking platform, platform mounting brackets securable to vertically-extending posts of the rows of rack, and post couplers provided on each one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform in each one of the lateral end regions. The post couplers are engageable with a respective one of platform couplers of the platform mounting brackets to configure the walking platform in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration. There is also provided a method to mount a walking platform to a racking system.

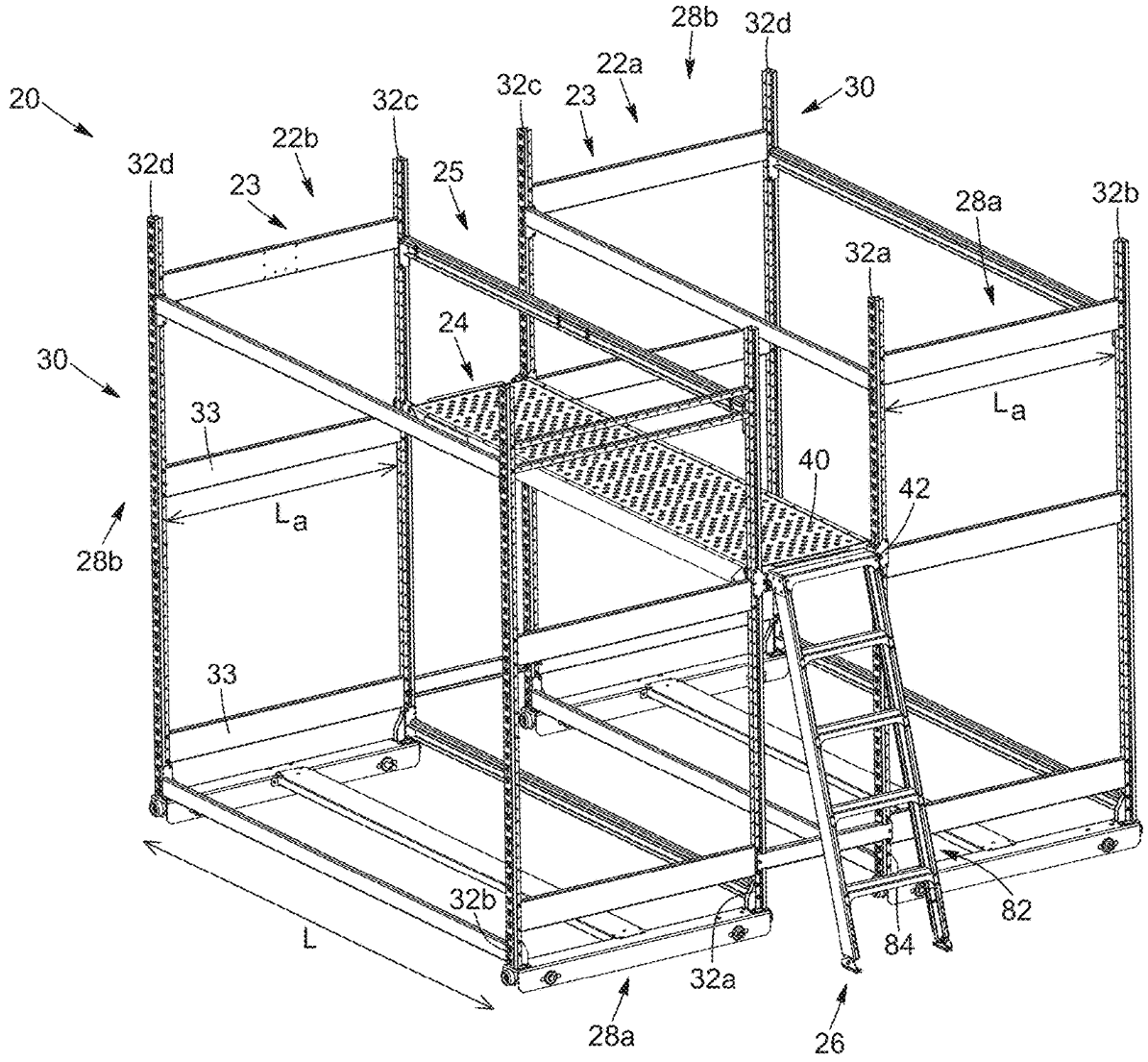
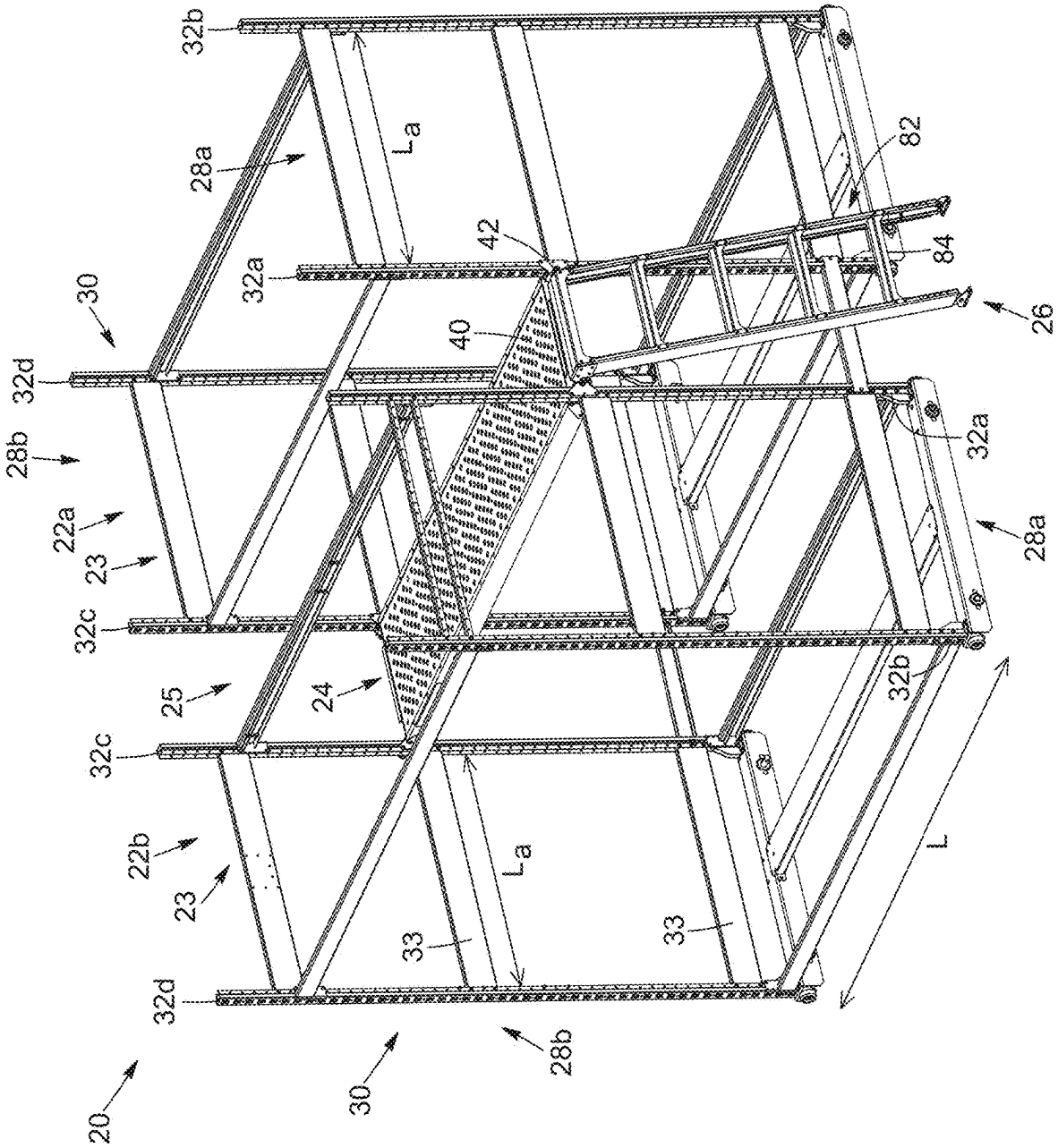


FIG. 1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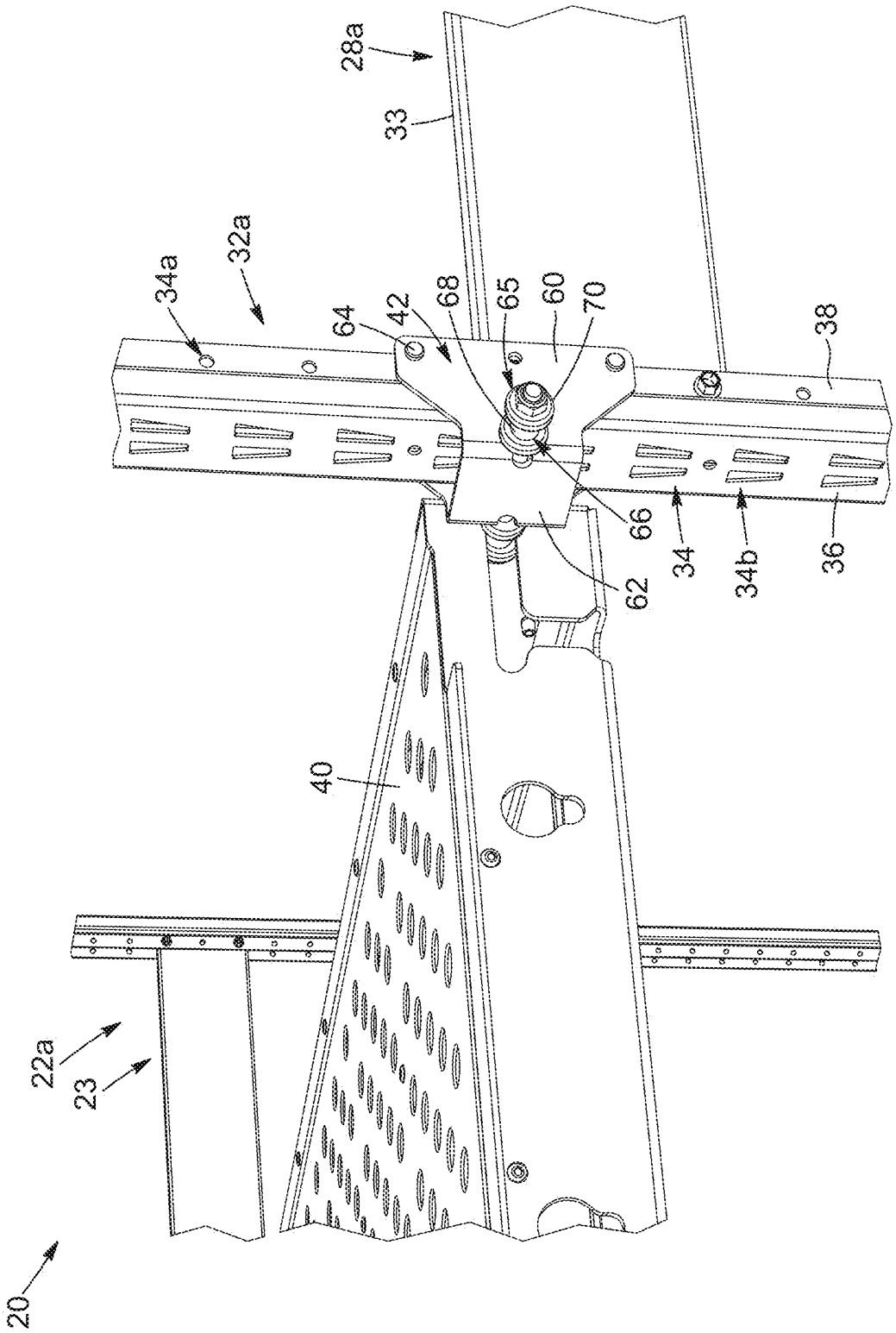

FIG. 2

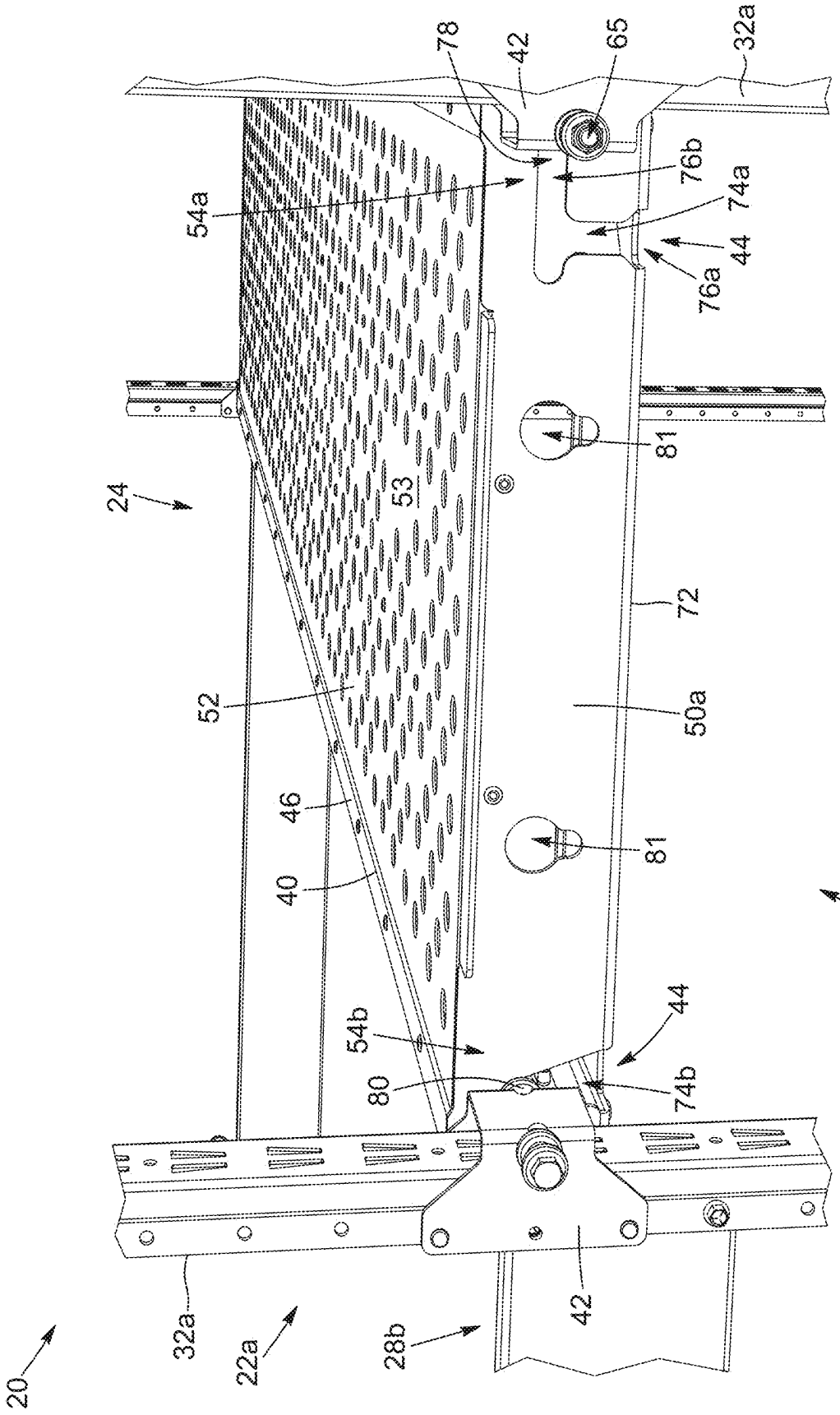
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FIG. 3

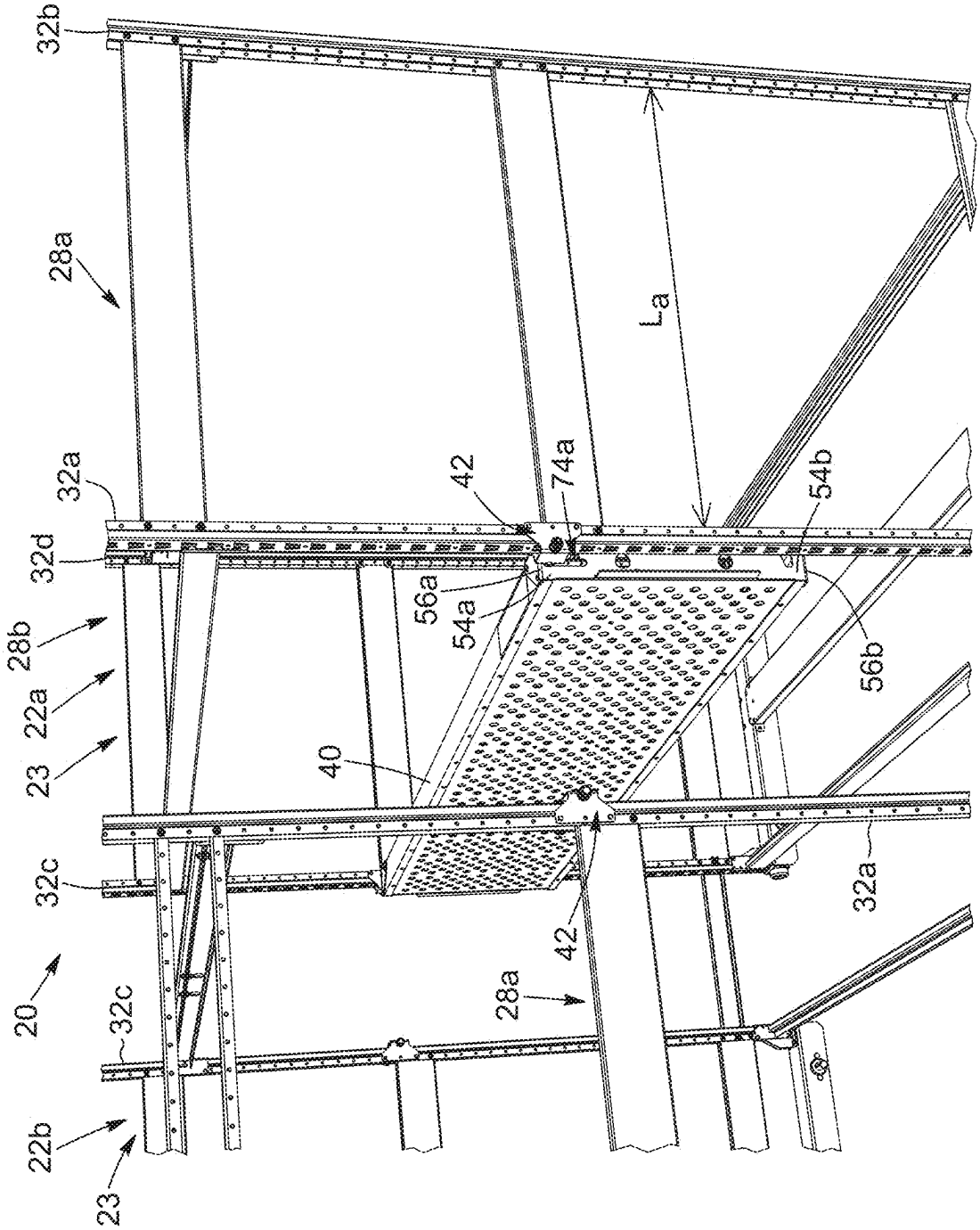
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FIG. 4

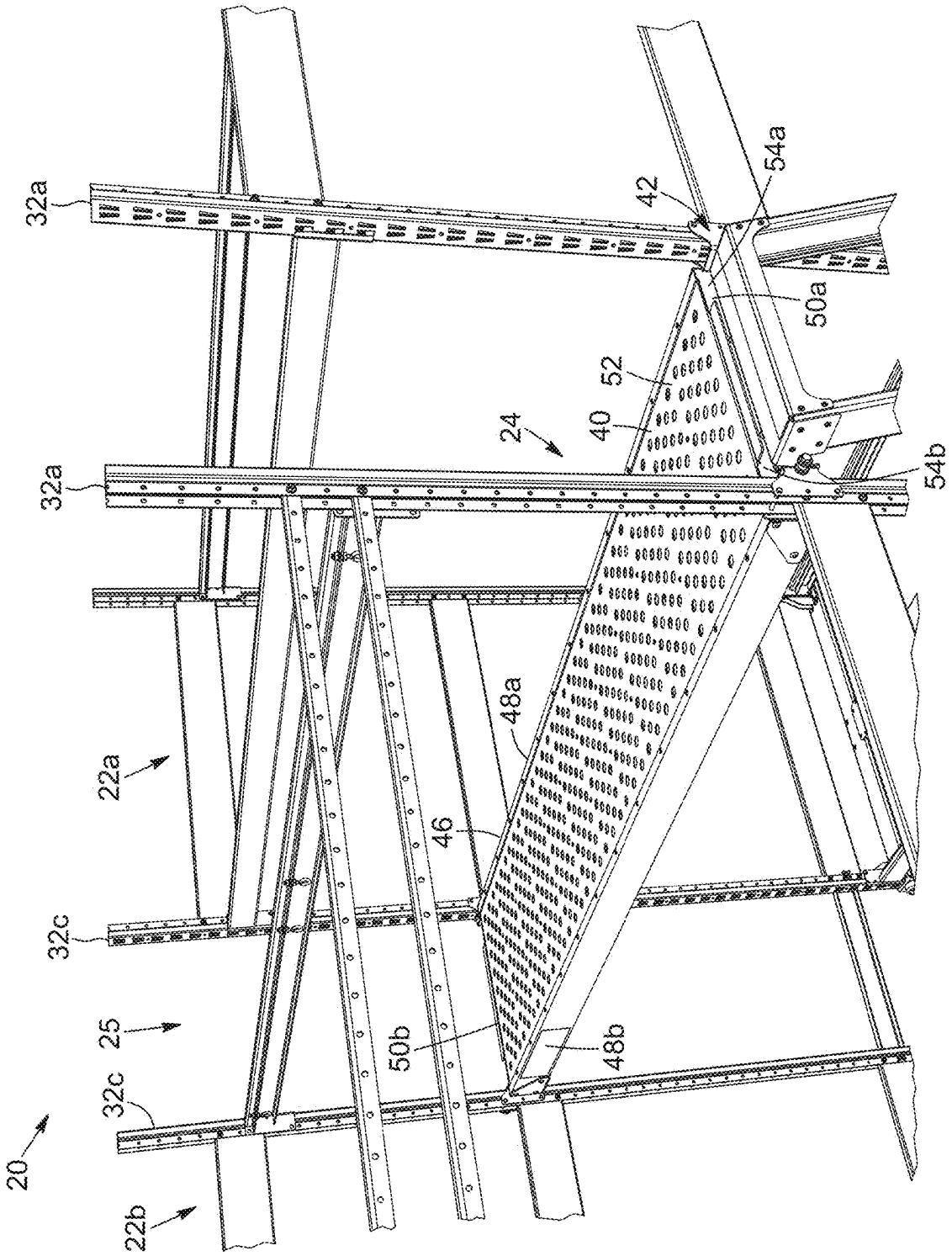
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FIG. 5

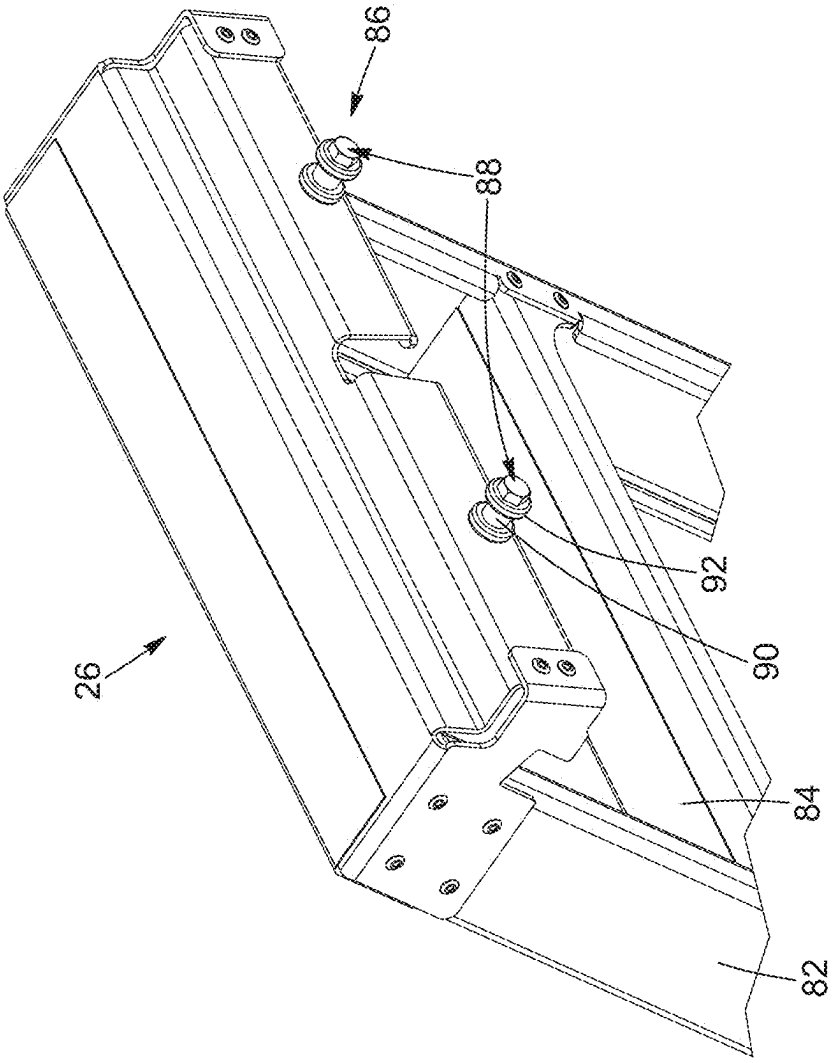

FIG. 6

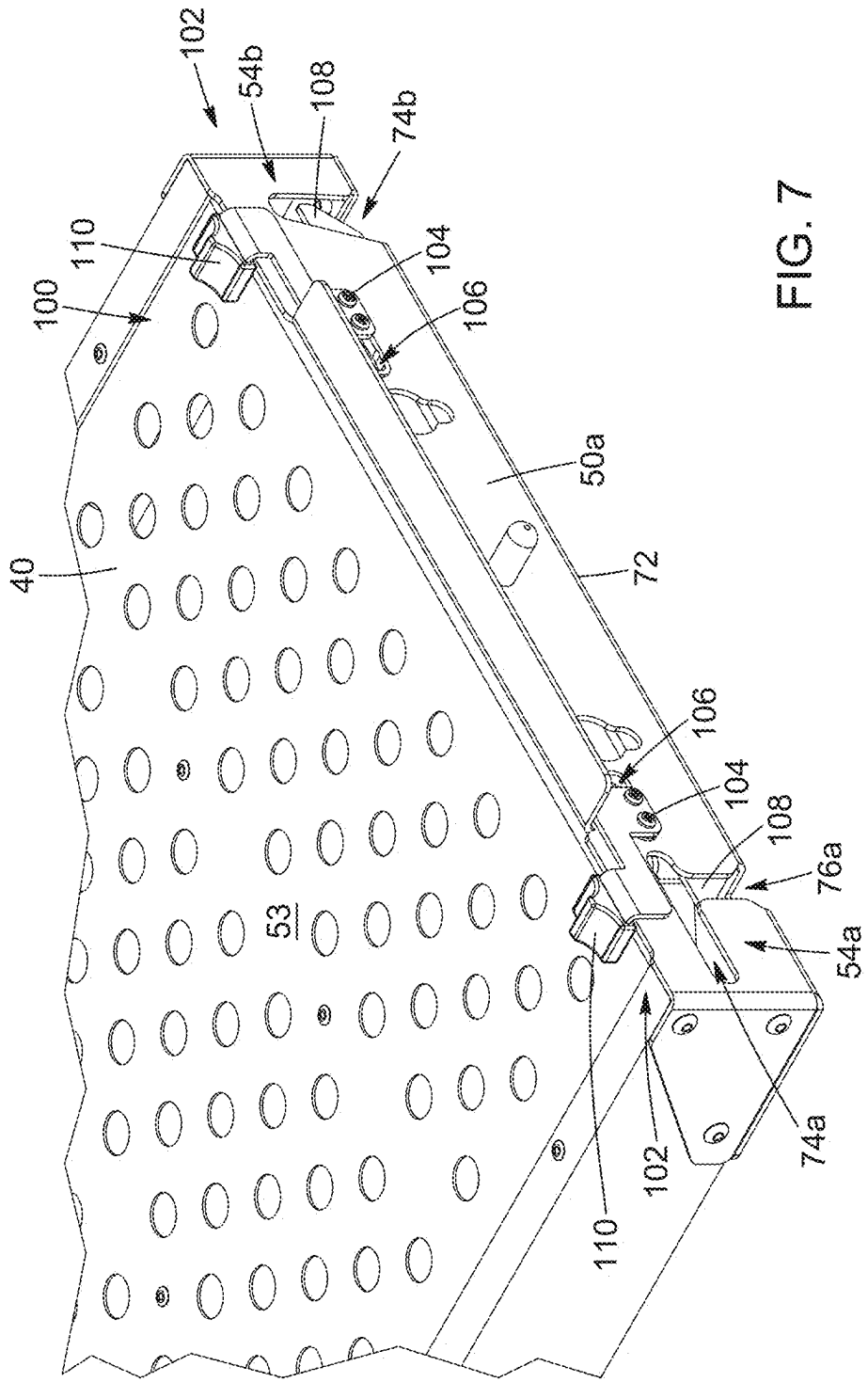
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FIG. 7

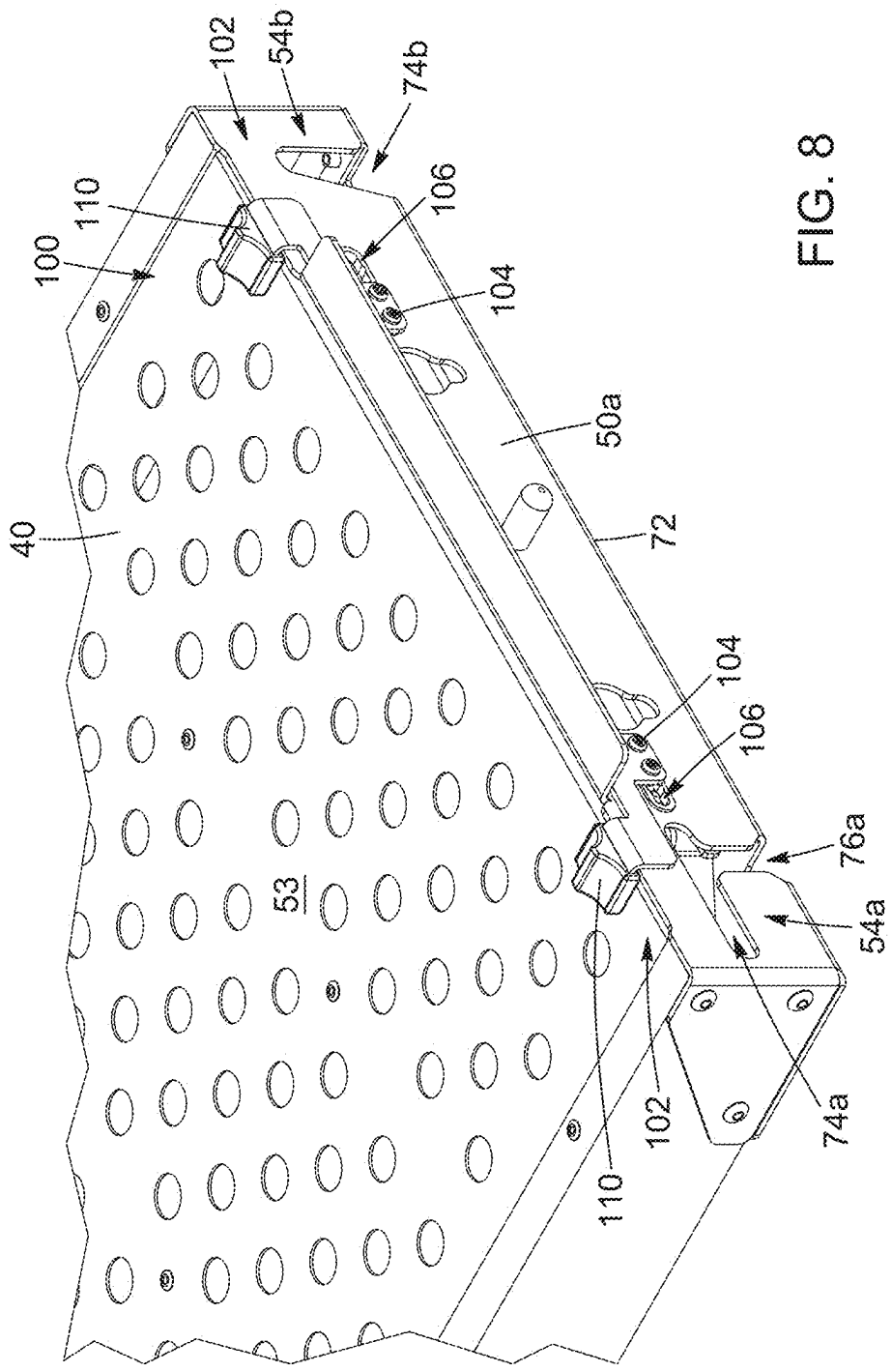
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FIG. 8

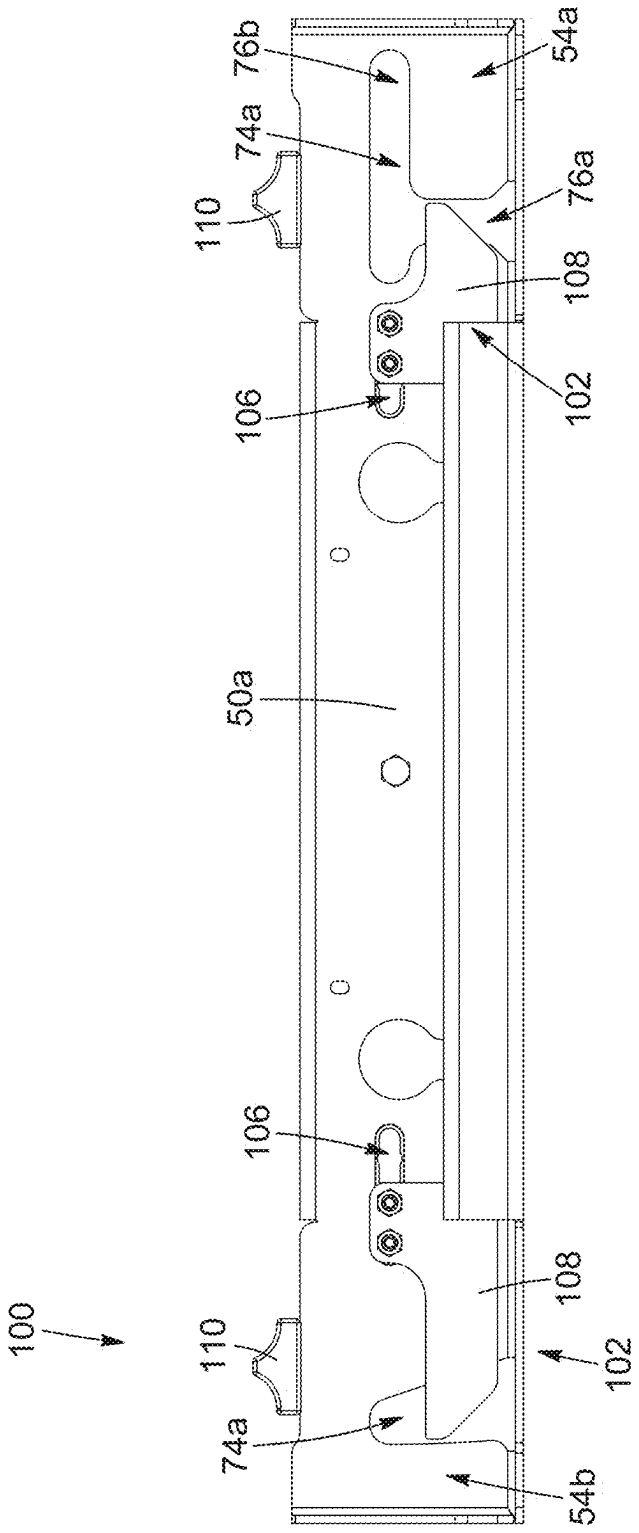

FIG. 9

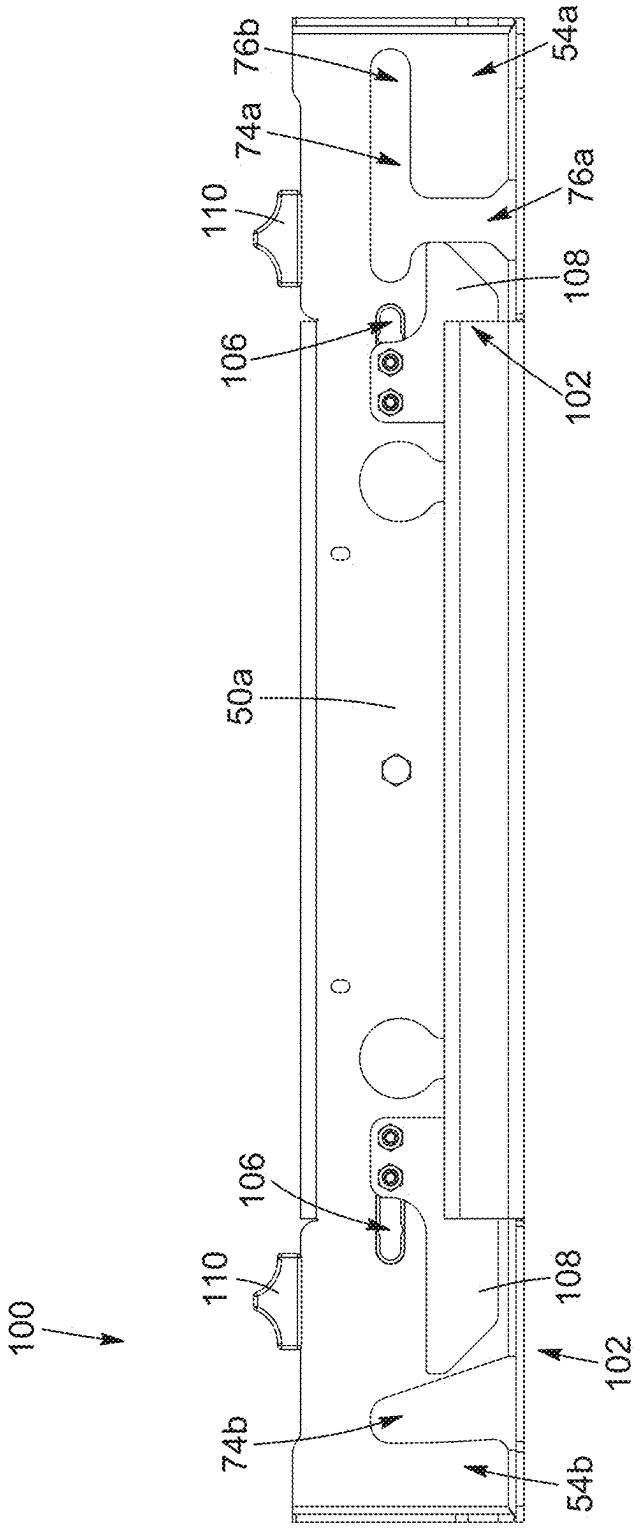

FIG. 10

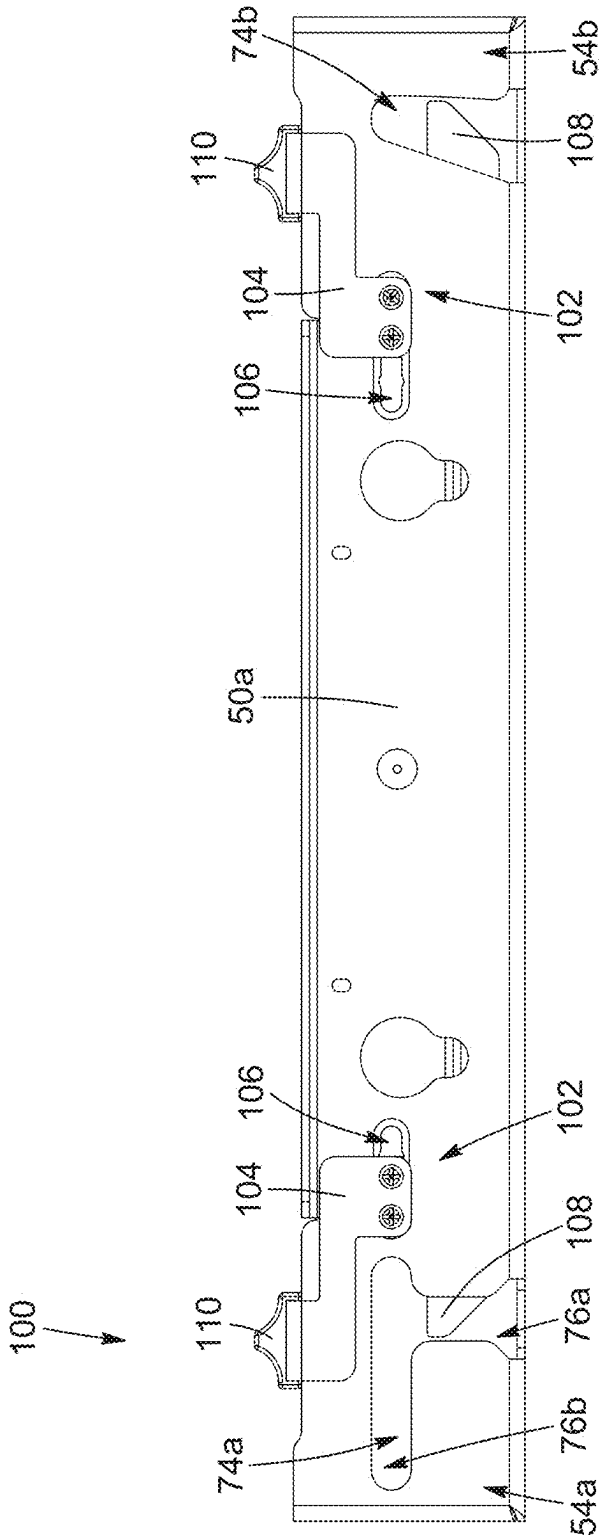

FIG. 11

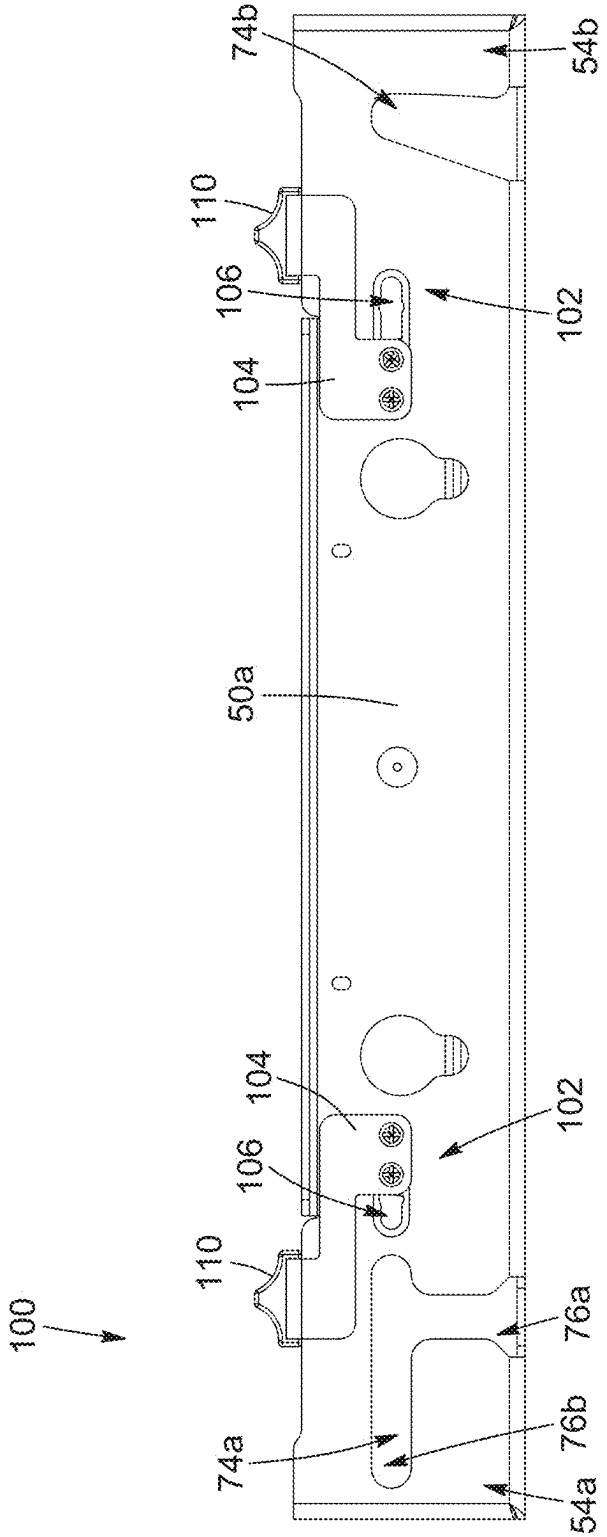

FIG. 12

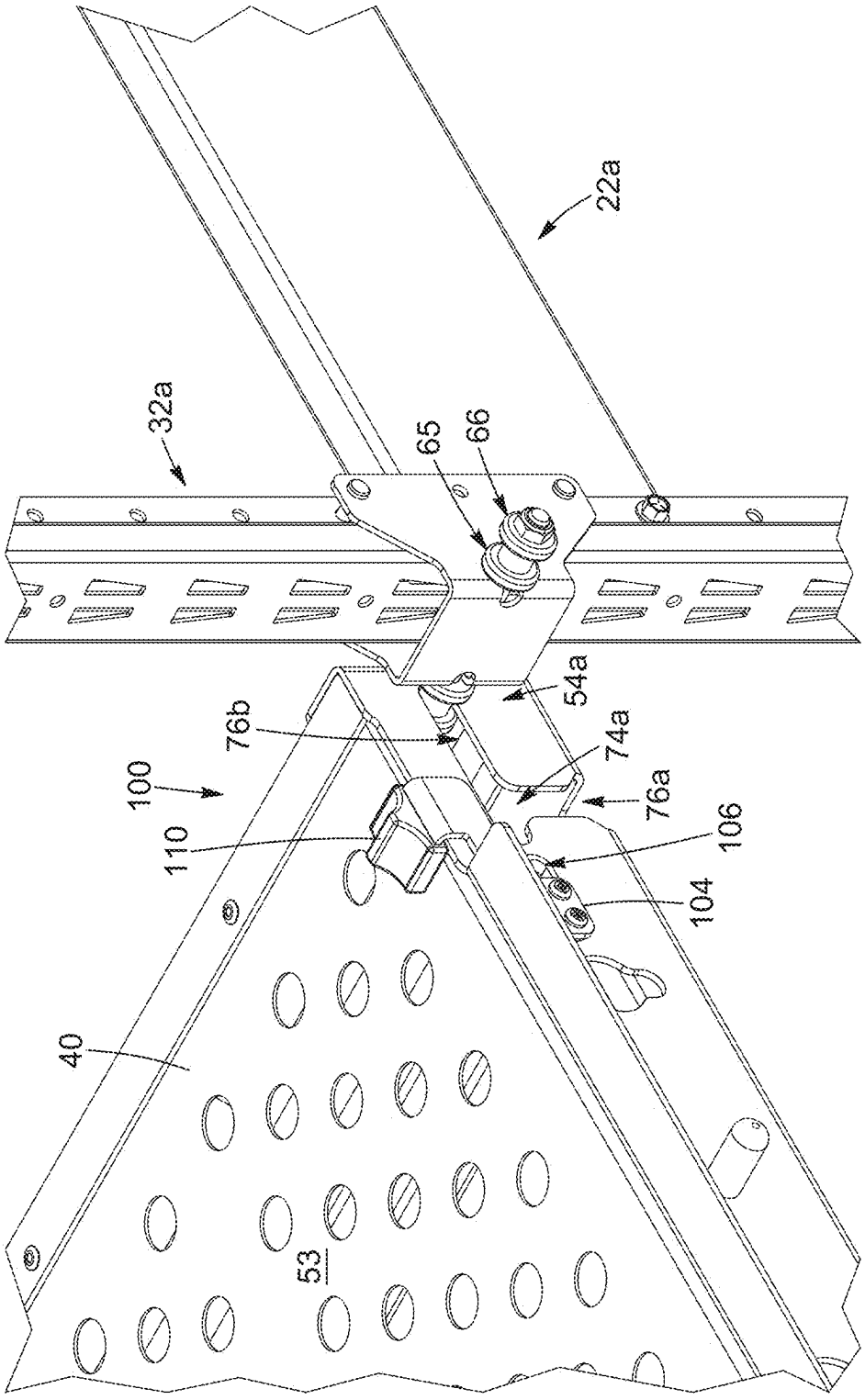

FIG. 13

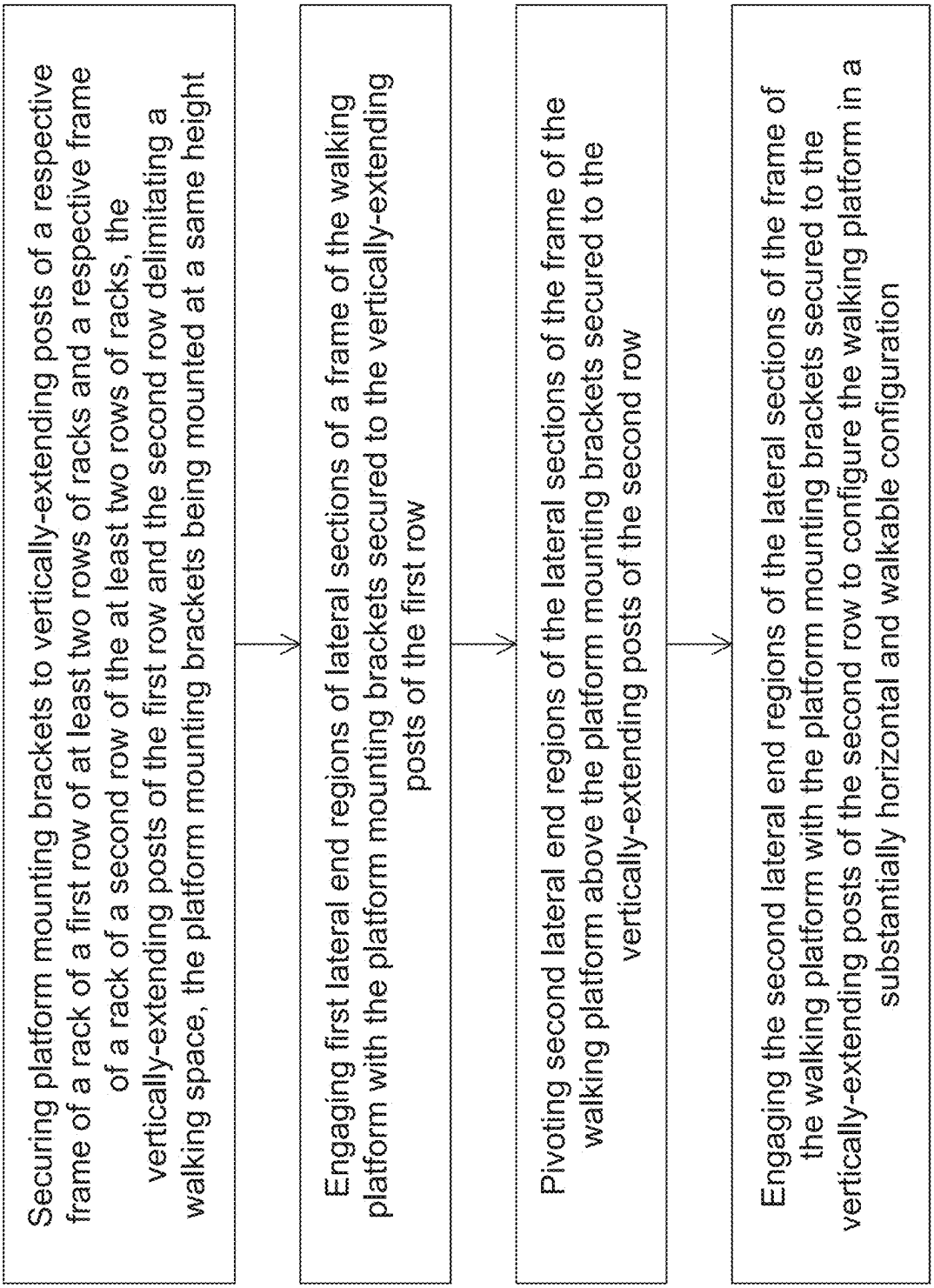
Securing platform mounting brackets to vertically-extending posts of a respective frame of a rack of a first row of at least two rows of racks and a respective frame of a rack of a second row of the at least two rows of racks, the vertically-extending posts of the first row and the second row delimitating a walking space, the platform mounting brackets being mounted at a same height
Engaging first lateral end regions of lateral sections of a frame of the walking platform with the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the first row
Pivoting second lateral end regions of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform above the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the second row
Engaging the second lateral end regions of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform with the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the second row to configure the walking platform in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration

FIG. 14

RACKING SYSTEM AND METHOD

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The technical field relates to a platform for allowing a user to access upper shelves in racks such as storage racks, interior growing or cultivation racks of a racking system. It also relates to a racking system having at least one detachable platform and, optionally, a detachable ladder to access the platform.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Racking systems include a plurality of rows of racks, horizontally spaced-apart from one another, each one of the racks having a frame supporting vertically spaced-apart shelves. The racking system can be a fixed racking system wherein racks are disposed side-by-side with an aisle provided between consecutive ones of the racks. The racking system can also be a mobile racking system, wherein at least one of the racks is mobile, e.g., it can be translated with respect to the other racks of the system.

[0003] In mobile racking systems, the racks can be supported and displaced on rails. Therefore, consecutive one of the racks can be configured in a collapsed configuration, wherein they contact each other, or in a spaced-apart configuration, wherein an aisle is defined inbetween to allow access to a person desiring to recuperate or store an article stored in the racks that are on either side of the aisle. Therefore, the horizontal stacking of the racks can be rearranged to define an aisle between selected two of the racks. Consequently, minimal volume is occupied by the mobile rack system since a permanent aisle is not required between each two consecutive racks.

[0004] To further optimize storage space, racks extend vertically often well above human height, requiring a ladder or a temporary scaffold to access articles stored in the upper shelves or retrieve articles therefrom. However, ladders can be unstable and temporary scaffold can require time to be erected and disassembled.

[0005] In view of the above, there is a need for a system to relatively quickly and easily provide access to upper shelves of a rack system and which can be relatively quickly detachable/removable, if required, which would be able to overcome or at least minimize some of the above-discussed prior art concerns.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] It is therefore an aim of the present invention to address the above-mentioned issues.

[0007] According to a general aspect, there is provided a racking system that comprises at least two rows of rack and a platform assembly. The at least two rows of rack are configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between. Each one of the racks comprises a first side and a second side, opposed to the first side, a first pair of vertically-extending posts located on the first side and a second pair of vertically-extending posts located on the second side. The platform assembly comprises walking platform, platform mounting brackets and post couplers. The walking platform has a frame with longitudinal sections and lateral sections and a walking panel mounted to the frame and defining a walking surface. Each one of the lateral sections has opposed lateral end regions. The platform mounting brackets are securable to the vertically-extending posts of the first pair and the second pair on a side delimiting the walking space at a same height. Each one of the platform mounting brackets has a platform coupler. The post couplers are provided on each one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform in each one of the lateral end regions. The post couplers are engageable with a respective one of the platform couplers of the platform mounting brackets to configure the walking platform in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

[0008] In accordance with an embodiment, at least one of the at least two rows of rack is horizontally displaceable towards and away from the other one of the at least two rows of rack.

[0009] In accordance with an embodiment, the at least two rows of rack are selectively configurable in a collapsed configuration wherein consecutive ones of the rows of rack are in contact and a horizontally spaced-apart configuration wherein the walking space is defined between consecutive ones of the rows of rack.

[0010] In accordance with an embodiment, the vertically-extending posts have a plurality of vertically-spaced apart mounting apertures extending therethrough and the platform assembly further comprises bracket fasteners and the platform mounting brackets are detachably secured to the vertically-extending posts by inserting the bracket fasteners into respective ones of the mounting apertures defined in the vertically-extending posts.

[0011] In accordance with an embodiment, the platform mounting brackets are substantially U-shaped and comprise two flanges superposable to opposed sides of a respective one of the vertically-extending posts and a joining section connecting the two flanges together.

[0012] In accordance with an embodiment, each one of the platform couplers comprises a protruding male member and each one of the post coupler comprises a post coupling aperture extending through a respective one of the lateral sections of the frame of the platform. The post coupling aperture is open on a lower edge of the respective one of the lateral sections and engageable by a corresponding one of the protruding male member.

[0013] In accordance with an embodiment, a first one of the post coupling apertures in a first one of the lateral end regions is substantially L-shape and comprises an insertion segment opened on the lower edge and a locking segment extending towards a lateral end of the first lateral end region.

[0014] In accordance with an embodiment, a second one of the post coupling apertures in a second one of the lateral end regions defines an oblique angle with the lower edge of the respective one of the lateral sections, having a closed end closer to a lateral end of the second lateral end region.

[0015] According to another general aspect, there is provided a method for detachably mounting a walking platform to a racking system that comprises at least two rows of racks configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between. The method comprises: securing platform mounting brackets to vertically-extending posts of a respective frame of the rack of a first one of the rows and a respective frame of the rack of a second one of the rows, the vertically-extending posts of the first row and the second row delimitating the walking space, the platform mounting brackets being mounted at a same height, engaging first lateral end regions of lateral sections of a frame of the walking platform with the platform

mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the first row, pivoting second lateral end regions of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform above the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the second row walking platform and engaging the second lateral end regions of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform with the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the second row to configure the walking platform in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

[0016] According to another general aspect, there is provided a racking system that comprises at least two rows of rack, a platform assembly and a ladder. The at least two rows of rack are configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between. Each one of the racks comprises a first side and a second side, opposed to the first side, a first pair of vertically-extending posts located on the first side and a second pair of vertically-extending posts located on the second side. The platform assembly comprises a walking platform and at least one ladder coupler. The walking platform has a frame with longitudinal sections and lateral sections and a walking panel mounted to the frame and defining a walking surface. Each one of the lateral sections has opposed lateral end regions. The walking platform is detachably securable to the vertically-extending posts of the first pair and the second pair on a side delimiting the walking space and configurable in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration. The at least one ladder coupler is provided on at least one of the lateral sections of the frame of walking platform. The ladder comprises a frame with a platform mounting side and a platform coupler detachably engageable with the at least one ladder coupler when the platform is configured in the substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

[0017] In accordance with an embodiment, at least one of the at least two rows of rack is horizontally displaceable towards and away from the other one of the at least two rows of rack.

[0018] In accordance with an embodiment, the at least two rows of rack are selectively configurable in a collapsed configuration wherein consecutive ones of the rows of rack are in contact and a horizontally spaced-apart configuration wherein the walking spaced is defined between consecutive ones of the rows of rack.

[0019] In accordance with an embodiment, the vertically-extending posts have a plurality of vertically-spaced apart mounting apertures extending therethrough and the platform assembly further comprises bracket fasteners and the platform mounting brackets are detachably secured to the vertically-extending posts by inserting the bracket fasteners into respective ones of the mounting apertures defined in the vertically-extending posts.

[0020] In accordance with an embodiment the at least one ladder coupler comprises two ladder couplers. Each one comprises a ladder coupling opening extending through the at least one of the lateral sections of the frame in a respective lateral end region thereof and the platform coupler comprises male members protruding from the plateform mounting side of the frame in an upper section thereof. The male members are selectively engageable and disengageable with a corresponding one of the ladder coupling openings.

[0021] In accordance with an embodiment, each one of the ladder coupling openings is pyriform.

[0022] According to a general aspect, there is provided a racking system comprising at least two rows of racks, a platform assembly. The at least two rows of racks are configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between. Each one of the racks comprises a first side and a second side, opposed to the first side, a first pair of vertically-extending posts located on the first side and a second pair of vertically-extending posts located on the second side. The platform assembly comprises a walking platform, platform mounting brackets and post couplers. The walking platform has a frame with longitudinal sections and lateral sections and a walking panel mounted to the frame and defining a walking surface. Each one of the lateral sections has opposed lateral end regions. The platform mounting brackets are securable to the vertically-extending posts of the first pair and the second pair on a side delimiting the walking space at a same height. Each one of the platform mounting brackets has a platform coupler. The post couplers are provided on each one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform in each one of the lateral end regions. Each one of the post couplers comprises a post coupling aperture extending through a respective one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform. The post couplers are engageable with a respective one of the platform couplers of the platform mounting brackets to configure the walking platform in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration, wherein at least one of the post coupling apertures of each one of the lateral sections of the frame is open on a lower edge thereof.

[0023] In accordance with an embodiment, at least one of the at least two rows of racks is horizontally displaceable towards and away from the other one of the at least two rows of racks and the at least two rows of racks are selectively configurable in a collapsed configuration wherein consecutive ones of the at least two rows of racks are in contact and a horizontally spaced-apart configuration wherein the walking space is defined between consecutive ones of the rows of racks.

[0024] In accordance with an embodiment, the vertically-extending posts have a plurality of vertically-spaced apart mounting apertures extending therethrough. The platform assembly further comprises bracket fasteners and the platform mounting brackets are detachably secured to the vertically-extending posts by inserting the bracket fasteners into respective ones of the mounting apertures defined in the vertically-extending posts.

[0025] In accordance with an embodiment, the platform mounting brackets are substantially U-shaped and comprise two flanges superposable to opposed sides of a respective one of the vertically-extending posts and a joining section connecting the two flanges together.

[0026] In accordance with an embodiment, each one of coupling apertures is open on the lower edge a respective one of the lateral sections of the frame.

[0027] In accordance with an embodiment, each one of the platform couplers comprises a protruding male member insertable into a corresponding one of the post coupling apertures.

[0028] In accordance with an embodiment, a first one of the post coupling apertures in a first one of the lateral end regions is substantially L-shape and comprises an insertion segment opened on the lower edge and a locking segment extending towards a lateral end of the first lateral end region.

[0029] In accordance with an embodiment, a second one of the post coupling apertures in a second one of the lateral end regions defines an oblique angle with the lower edge of the respective one of the lateral sections, having a closed end closer to a lateral end of the second lateral end region.

[0030] In accordance with an embodiment, the platform assembly further comprises a locking assembly selectively configurated in a locked configuration preventing engagement and disengagement of at least one of the post couplers with the corresponding platform mounting bracket and an unlocked configuration allowing engagement and disengagement of at least one of the post couplers with the corresponding platform mounting bracket.

[0031] In accordance with an embodiment, the locking assembly comprises at least one translatable catch slidably mounted to the frame of the platform in a respective one of the lateral end region and selectively obstructing a corresponding one of the post coupling apertures.

[0032] According to another general aspect, there is provided a method for detachably mounting a walking platform to a racking system that comprises at least two rows of racks configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between. The method comprises securing platform mounting brackets to vertically-extending posts of a respective frame of the rack of a first row of the at least two rows of racks and a respective frame of the rack of a second row of the at least two rows of racks, the vertically-extending posts of the first row and the second row delimitating the walking space, the platform mounting brackets being mounted at a same height. The method further comprises engaging first lateral end regions of lateral sections of a frame of the walking platform with the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the first row. The method further comprises pivoting second lateral end regions of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform above the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the second row. The method further comprises engaging the second lateral end regions of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform with the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the second row to configure the walking platform in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

[0033] In an embodiment, each one of the platform mounting brackets comprises a post coupler including a post coupling aperture extending through a respective one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform and wherein at least the post coupling aperture of the second lateral end region is opened at a lower edge thereof, wherein the first lateral end regions and the second lateral end regions are engaged with the platform mounting brackets by inserting the post couplers in a respective one of the post coupling apertures.

[0034] In an embodiment, the method further comprises locking at least one of the post couplers in the respective one of the post coupling apertures by translating a translatable catch in a locked configuration to obstruct the respective one of the post coupling apertures.

[0035] In accordance with still another general aspect, there is provided a racking system that comprises at least two rows of racks, a platform assembly and a ladder. The at least two rows of racks are configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between. Each one of the racks comprises a first side and a second side, opposed to the first side, a first pair of vertically-extending posts located on the first side and a second pair of vertically-extending posts located on the second side. The platform assembly comprises a walking platform and at least one ladder coupler. The walking platform has a frame with longitudinal sections and lateral sections and a walking panel mounted to the frame and defining a walking surface. Each one of the lateral sections has opposed lateral end regions. The walking platform is detachably securable to the vertically-extending posts of the first pair and the second pair on a side delimiting the walking space and configurable in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration. The at least one ladder coupler is provided on at least one of the lateral sections of the frame of walking platform. The ladder comprises a frame with a platform mounting side and a platform coupler detachably engageable with the at least one ladder coupler when the platform is configured in the substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

[0036] In accordance with an embodiment, at least one of the at least two rows of rack is horizontally displaceable towards and away from the other one of the at least two rows of racks and the at least two rows of racks are selectively configurable in a collapsed configuration wherein consecutive ones of the at least two rows of racks are in contact and in a horizontally spaced-apart configuration wherein the walking spaced is defined between consecutive ones of the at least two rows of racks.

[0037] In accordance with an embodiment, the vertically-extending posts have a plurality of vertically-spaced apart mounting apertures extending therethrough and the platform assembly further comprises bracket fasteners and platform mounting brackets, the platform mounting brackets are detachably secured to the vertically-extending posts by inserting the bracket fasteners into respective ones of the mounting apertures defined in the vertically-extending posts.

[0038] In accordance with an embodiment, the at least one ladder coupler comprises two ladder couplers, each one comprising a ladder coupling opening extending through the at least one of the lateral sections of the frame in a respective lateral end region thereof and the platform coupler comprises male members protruding from the plateform mounting side of the frame in an upper section thereof, the male members being selectively engageable and disengageable with a corresponding one of the ladder coupling openings.

[0039] In accordance with an embodiment, each one of the ladder coupling openings is pyriform.

[0040] In accordance with an embodiment, the platform assembly further comprises post couplers in each one of the lateral end regions of each one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform, wherein each one of the post couplers comprises a post coupling aperture extending through a respective one of the lateral end regions, with at least one of the post coupling apertures being opened on a lower edge of the respective one of the lateral sections.

[0041] In accordance with an embodiment, the platform assembly further comprises a locking assembly selectively configuration in a locked configuration preventing engagement and disengagement of at least one of the post couplers with the corresponding platform mounting bracket and an unlocked configuration allowing engagement and disengagement of at least one of the post couplers with the corresponding platform mounting bracket, wherein the locking assembly comprises at least one translatable catch slid-

ably mounted to the frame of the platform in a respective one of the lateral end region and selectively obstructing a corresponding one of the post coupling apertures.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0042] FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a racking system in accordance with an embodiment;

[0043] FIG. **2** is a perspective view, enlarged, of a portion of the racking system shown in FIG. **1**, showing an engagement between a platform and a frame of a rack of the racking system;

[0044] FIG. **3** is another perspective view, enlarged, of a portion of the racking system shown in FIG. **1**, showing engagement between the platform and the frames of the racks located on both sides of the platform and wherein the platform is configured in a horizontal and walkable configuration;

[0045] FIG. **4** is a perspective view of the racking system shown in FIG. **1**, wherein the platform is configured in a collapsed/substantially vertical configuration;

[0046] FIG. **5** is a perspective view of the racking system shown in FIG. **1**, wherein the platform is configured in the horizontal and walkable configuration and a ladder is engaged therewith;

[0047] FIG. **6** is a perspective view of an upper section of the ladder shown in FIG. **5**, showing platform couplers protruding from a platform mounting side;

[0048] FIG. **7** is a perspective view of a walking platform, in accordance with another embodiment, wherein the walking platform includes a locking assembly configured in a locked configuration;

[0049] FIG. **8** is a perspective view of the walking platform of FIG. **7**, wherein the locking assembly is configured in an unlocked configuration;

[0050] FIG. **9** is a rear elevation view of a lateral section of a frame of the walking platform of FIG. **7**, showing the locking assembly in the locked configuration;

[0051] FIG. **10** is a rear elevation view of the lateral section of the frame of the walking platform of FIG. **9**, showing the locking assembly in the unlocked configuration;

[0052] FIG. **11** is a front elevation view of the lateral section of the frame of the walking platform of FIG. **9**, showing the locking assembly in the locked configuration;

[0053] FIG. **12** is a front elevation view of the lateral section of the frame of the walking platform of FIG. **9**, showing the locking assembly in the unlocked configuration; and

[0054] FIG. **13** is a perspective view of a section of a racking system including the walking platform of FIG. **7**, wherein the locking assembly is configured in the unlocked configuration.

[0055] FIG. **14** is a flowchart of a method for mounting a platform to a racking system in accordance with an embodiment.

[0056] It will be noted that throughout the appended drawings, like features are identified by like reference numerals.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0057] Moreover, although the embodiments of the racking system and corresponding parts thereof consist of certain geometrical configurations as explained and illustrated herein, not all of these components and geometries are essential and thus should not be taken in their restrictive sense. It is to be understood, as also apparent to a person skilled in the art, that other suitable components and cooperation thereinbetween, as well as other suitable geometrical configurations, may be used for the racking system, as will be briefly explained herein and as can be easily inferred herefrom by a person skilled in the art. Moreover, it will be appreciated that positional descriptions such as "above", "below", "left", "right" and the like should, unless otherwise indicated, be taken in the context of the figures and should not be considered limiting.

[0058] In the following description, the same numerical references refer to similar elements. Furthermore, for the sake of simplicity and clarity, namely so as to not unduly burden the figures with several references numbers, not all figures contain references to all the components and features, and references to some components and features may be found in only one figure, and components and features of the present disclosure which are illustrated in other figures can be easily inferred therefrom. The embodiments, geometrical configurations, materials mentioned and/or dimensions shown figures are optional, and are given for exemplification purposes only.

[0059] Moreover, it will be appreciated that positional descriptions such as "above", "below", "forward", "rearward" "left", "right" and the like should, unless otherwise indicated, be taken in the context of the figures and correspond to the position and orientation of the racks of the racking system and corresponding parts when mounted to the floor and configured to support articles thereon. Positional descriptions should not be considered limiting.

[0060] Referring now to FIG. **1**, there is shown a non-limitative embodiment of a racking system **20** including two spaced-apart rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the racking system **20** is a fixed racking system wherein the rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b* are mounted to a supporting surface (or ground), such as a floor. However, it is appreciated that, in an alternative embodiment (not shown), the racking system can be a mobile system wherein at least one of the rows of rack is mobile, e.g., it can translate with respect to the other rows of rack between a collapsed configuration and an extended configuration. More particularly, the mobile row(s) of rack is horizontally displaceable towards and away from the other one of the at least two rows of rack. For instance, the racking system can include elongated rails (not shown) fixed to the supporting surface and engaged by one or more rows of racks in such a manner that the rows of rack can be displaceable with respect to one another.

[0061] Therefore, in a mobile rack system, consecutive ones (or successively adjacent) of the rows of rack are selectively configurable in the collapsed configuration wherein they are in contact (or very close to one another) and a horizontally spaced-apart configuration wherein a walking space is defined therebetween, e.g., they are further spaced-apart than in the collapsed configuration. Therefore, it is possible to optimize the floor space of a storage facility by avoiding aisles/walking spaces being present between each two consecutive rows of rack to instead have a single aisle formed in a group composed of several rows of rack. The racks become horizontally stacked against each other (e.g., in the collapsed configuration), except where a walking space (or aisle) is formed.

[0062] In FIG. **1**, only two rows of rack **22***a*, **22***b* are shown. However, it is appreciated that the racking system **20** can include more than two rows of rack extending substantially parallel to one another. Similarly, in FIG. **1**, each one of the rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b* includes only one rack **23**. However, it is appreciated that each one of the rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b* can include more than one rack disposed in a longitudinally extending arrangement, e.g., aligned along a longitudinal axis L.

[0063] In FIG. **1**, the two rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b* are configured in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space **25** in between.

[0064] In an embodiment wherein the racking system **20** is used for interior growing or indoor farming, the racks can be referred to as grow racks. However, it is appreciated that the racking system **20** can be used to other usage such as and without being limitative article storage.

[0065] In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, in addition to the two rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*, the racking system **20** comprises a platform assembly **24**, extending into the walking space **25** and being mounted to the two horizontally spaced-apart racks **23**, and a ladder **26** detachably coupled to the platform assembly **24** and providing access thereto.

[0066] The rack of the two rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b* being similar and including one rack **23**, only one will be described in the following paragraphs.

[0067] Each one of the racks **23** has a first side **28***a* and a second side **28***b*, opposed to the first side. The first side **28***a* and the second side **28***b* are spaced-apart from one another along the longitudinal axis L of the rack **23** (or of the row of racks). Should the row of racks includes more than one rack, either the first side or the second side of the rack also constitute the first side or the second side of the adjacent one of the racks of the same row.

[0068] Each one of the racks **23** includes a frame **30** including a first pair of vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***b* located on the first side **28***a* and a second pair of vertically-extending posts **32***c*, **32***d* located on the second side **28***b*. The vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***b* are spaced-apart from one another along a lateral axis La of the rack **23**, perpendicular to the longitudinal axis L. The vertically-extending posts **32***c*, **32***d* are also spaced-apart from one another along the lateral axis La. In the embodiment shown in FIG. **1**, the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the two adjacent ones of the rows delimit partially the walking space **25**, e.g., they are located on the side of the walking space **25**.

[0069] In the embodiment shown, the rack **23** is free of intermediate vertically-extending post. However, in an alternative embodiment (not shown), the rack **23** can include one or more vertically-extending post extending upwardly and being located between the two pairs of vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***b*, **32***c*, **32***d* located at the first and second sides **28***a*, **28***b* of the frame **30**.

[0070] In the embodiment wherein the rack **23** is a mobile rack, it can further include support wheels and/or drive wheels (not shown) that are engageable with elongated rails and that are operatively connected to actuation mechanisms (not shown), as known in the art.

[0071] The frame **30** of the rack **23** also includes horizontally-extending beams **33** extending between the two vertically-extending posts of the pairs (**32***a*, **32***b*), (**32***c*, **32***d*), e.g., along the lateral axis La.

[0072] The rack **23** can further include vertically spaced and superimposed shelves (not shown) mounted to the frame **30** to receive articles such as e.g. boxes or plant trays (not shown).

[0073] It is appreciated that the racking system **20** can include other equipment (not shown), which are normally provided on fixed and/or mobile racking systems including but without being limited to aisle security systems, braking systems, etc.

[0074] Referring now to FIG. **2**, there is shown that each one of the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***b*, **32***c*, **32***d* comprise vertically spaced-apart mounting apertures **34** on several sides thereof. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, each one of the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***b*, **32***c*, **32***d* is substantially T-shaped with a transversal segment **36** extending along the longitudinal axis L and a central segment **38** extending transversally, along the lateral axis La and towards a center of the rack **23**. A first set **34***a* of mounting apertures **34** extend through the central segment **38**. A second set **34***b* of mounting apertures **34** extend through the transversal segment **36**. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the mounting apertures **34** of the second set **34***b* are provided in pair, one being located on each side of a center line corresponding to a junction with the central segment **38**. It is appreciated that the configuration, the number, and the shape of the mounting apertures **34** can vary from the embodiment shown. Furthermore, it is appreciated that the vertically-extending posts can be free of mounting apertures **34**.

[0075] In some implementations, the mounting apertures **34** defined in the vertically-extending posts of one of the racks **23** are vertically aligned together.

[0076] Referring now to FIGS. **3** and **5**, the platform assembly **24** will be described in further detail. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, it includes a walking platform **40**, platform mounting brackets **42** securable to the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the first pair and the second pair on a side delimiting the walking space **25** at a same height, and post couplers **44**.

[0077] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the racking system **20** includes only one platform assembly **24** with only one walking platform. It is appreciated that, in alternative embodiments (not shown), the racking system **20** can include more than one platform assembly **24** and/or the platform assembly **24** can include more than one platform **40**.

[0078] The walking platform **40** is detachably securable to two consecutive rows of rack **22***a*, **22***b* above the supporting surface (or ground) and is configured to support a person above the ground. Therefore, the platform can provide access, to a user, to upper shelf areas, located on either side of the walking space **25**, when the racks are of a height above human height.

[0079] The walking platform **40** has a frame **46** with longitudinal sections **48***a*, **48***b* and lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* and a walking panel **52** (or upper panel) mounted to the frame **46** and defining a walking surface **53**. Each one of the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* has opposed lateral end regions **54***a*, **54***b*, each one being adjacent to a respective one of the rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*, when the walking platform **40** is mounted thereto in an operative/substantially horizontal and walkable configuration, as shown in FIGS. **1**, **3**, and **5**. Each one of the lateral end regions **54***a*, **54***b* extends inwardly

from a respective lateral end **56***a*, **56***b* (FIG. **4**) of the respective one of the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b*.

[0080] In the embodiment shown, the platform mounting brackets **42** are detachably secured to a respective one the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the first pair and the second pair on the side delimiting the walking space **25**. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the platform assembly **24** further includes bracket fasteners (not shown) engageable with a pair of the platform mounting brackets **42** and the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* to detachably attached the platform mounting brackets **42** at a selected height along and to the vertically-extending post **32***a*, **32***c*.

[0081] In a non-limitative embodiment, the platform mounting brackets **42** are detachably secured to the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* by inserting the bracket fasteners into respective ones of the mounting apertures **34** defined in the central segment **38** of vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c*, e.g., the second set **34***b* of mounting apertures.

[0082] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, each one of the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* includes only one platform mounting bracket **42**. However, it is appreciated than, in an alternative embodiment (not shown), each one of the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* can include more than one platform mounting brackets **42**, vertically spaced-apart from one another. Furthermore, it is appreciated that, platform mounting brackets **42** can be mounted to the vertically-extending posts **32***b*, **32***d*, for instance if they are located adjacent to another row of racks **22**.

[0083] Referring now to FIG. **2**, in the non-limitative embodiment shown, the platform mounting brackets **42** are substantially U-shaped and comprise two flanges **60** (only one is shown) superposable to opposed sides of a respective one of the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* and a joining section (or joining plate) **62** connecting the two flanges **60** together.

[0084] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, each one of the flanges **60** has a post mounting aperture **64** extending therethrough. The post mounting apertures **64** of each one of the platform mounting brackets **42** are aligned. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the opposed sides of a respective one of the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* are adjacent to the flanges **60** and are connectable by a bolt or a pin extending through a pair of aligned post mounting apertures **64** and apertures in the opposed sides of the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c*.

[0085] Each one of the platform mounting brackets **42** further includes a platform coupler **65**. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the platform coupler **65** is engaged with the flanges **60** by extending through a pair of aligned apertures.

[0086] More particularly, in the non-limitative embodiment shown, the platform coupler **65** includes a bolt extending through the pair of aligned apertures and having at least one end section extending outwardly past a respective one of the flanges **60** and defining a protruding abutment **66** (or male member), engageable with the platform **40**, as will be described in more details below. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the platform coupler **65** has end sections extending outwardly past the flanges **60** on both sides thereof. Therefore, each one of platform mounting brackets **42** includes two protruding abutments **66**, one on each side thereof.

[0087] In an alternative embodiment (not shown), the platform coupler **65** can be single piece with a remaining portion of the platform mounting bracket **42**.

[0088] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, in each one of the end sections protruding outwardly from the flanges **60** of the platform mounting brackets **42**, the platform coupler **65** has a narrower stem **68** and a larger head **70**, located outwardly of the narrower stem **68**. The purpose of which will be describe in more details below.

[0089] It is appreciated that, in an alternative embodiment, the shape and the configuration of the platform mounting brackets **42** and its platform coupler **65** can vary from the embodiment shown. For instance and without being limitative, the platform mounting brackets. can be mounted to the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* with a different fastening assembly than the bracket fasteners.

[0090] Turning now to FIG. **3**, non-limitative embodiments of the post couplers **44** will be described. The post couplers **44** are provided on each one of the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* of the frame **46** of walking platform **40** and, more particularly, in each one of the lateral end regions **54***a*, **54***b*.

[0091] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, since the platform couplers **65** include the protruding male members **66**, the post couplers **44** include complementary female members. However, it is appreciated that, in an alternative embodiment (not shown), the platform couplers **65** can be female member and the post couplers **44** are complementary male members.

[0092] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, each one of the post couplers **44** includes a post coupling aperture extending through a respective one of the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* of the frame **46** of the platform **40**. Each one of the post coupling apertures is open on a lower edge **72** of the respective one of the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* and engageable by a corresponding one of the platform coupler **65**.

[0093] The post coupler **44** provided on each one of the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* of the frame **46** being similar, only one will be described in the following paragraphs.

[0094] A first one of the post coupling apertures is located in a first one of the lateral end regions **54***a* and is substantially L-shape. It is also referred to as the engagement coupling aperture **74***a* since it is the first one to be engaged with a corresponding one of the platform couplers **65**. It includes an insertion segment **76***a* opened on the lower edge **72** and a locking segment **76***b* extending towards a respective one of the lateral ends **56***a* of the lateral end region **54***a*. The insertion segment **76***a* and the locking segment **76***b* communicate, with the locking segment **76***b* having a closed end **78**. A corresponding one of the platform coupler **65** is engageable in the engagement coupling aperture **74***a*, from an open end thereof located at the lower edge **72**, and slidably therein until it reaches the closed end **78**. A width of the engagement coupling aperture **74***a* is slightly wider than a diameter of the stem **68** of the platform coupler **65** to allow its displacement therealong but narrower than a diameter of the head **70** of the platform coupler **65** to prevent its disengagement once engaged and configured in the operative/substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

[0095] A second one of the post coupling apertures **74***b* is located in a second one of the lateral end regions **54***b*. It defines an oblique angle with the lower edge **72**, having a closed end **80** closer to the respective one of the lateral ends **56***b* of the lateral end region **54***b*.

[0096] As for the engagement coupling aperture **74***a*, a corresponding one of the platform coupler **65** (e.g., the platform coupler **65** facing the one inserted in the first post coupling aperture **74***a* on the opposite side of the walking space **25**) is engageable in the second post coupling aperture **74***b*, from an open end thereof located at the lower edge **72**, and slidably therein until it reaches the closed end **80**. To engage the platform coupler **65** in the second post coupling aperture **74***b*, the platform **40** is pivoted upwardly about the platform coupler **65** engaged in the engagement coupling aperture **74***a* until the lateral end region **54***b* is located above the corresponding platform coupler **65**. Then, the opening of the second post coupling aperture **74***b*, on the lower edge **72**, is aligned with the platform coupler **65** and the platform **40** is pivoted downwardly to engage the platform coupler **65** inside the second post coupling aperture **74***b* until it reaches the closed end **80**. Then, the platform **40** is configured in the operative/substantially horizontal and walkable configuration, secured to the vertically extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the two rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*.

[0097] As for the engagement coupling aperture **74***a*, a width of the second post coupling aperture **74***b* is slightly wider than a diameter of the stem **68** of the platform coupler **65** to allow its displacement therealong but narrower than a diameter of the head **70** of the platform coupler **65** to prevent its disengagement once engaged and configured in the operative/substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

[0098] Even though the above-description refers to the platform coupler **65** and the engagement coupling apertures **74***a*, **74***b* on one side of the rack **22**, it is understood that the platform couplers **65** on the first side **28***a* and the second side **28***b* are inserted simultaneously with the engagement coupling apertures **74***a*, **74***b* located at the two opposed lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* of the platform **40**.

[0099] The same steps can be processed, in a reverse order, to disengage the platform **40** from at least one of the two rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*. In an embodiment, the platform **40** can be mounted to only one of the two rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*, via the engagement coupling apertures **74***a*, as shown in FIG. **4**. When mounted to only one of the two rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*, the platform **40** can be configurable in a collapsed/vertical configuration, wherein the platform is superposed to the rows of racks to which it is mounted. In some implementations, a length of the platform **40**, along the longitudinal axis L, is shorter than a distance between the two vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* to which the platform **40** is mounted. Therefore, if the racking system is mobile, the rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b* can be further compacted even if the platform **40** remains mounted to one of the rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b* in the collapsed configuration thereof.

[0100] In the embodiment shown, the two post coupling apertures **74***a*, **74***b* of each one of the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* of the frame **46** are opened at the lower edge **72** of the lateral section **50***a*, **50***b*. It is appreciated that, in an alternative embodiment (not shown), only one of the post coupling apertures **74***a*, **74***b* can be opened at the lower edge **72**. For instance, the first post coupling aperture **74***a* can be a pyriform aperture and the second post coupling aperture **74***b* can be opened at the lower edge **72**.

[0101] Referring now to FIGS. **7** to **13**, there is shown an alternative embodiment of the platform assembly **24**, similar to the one described above in reference to FIGS. **1** to **6**, and further including a locking assembly **100** configured to temporary lock the platform assembly **24** to the spaced-apart rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*, e.g., prevent inadvertent disengagement.

[0102] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the locking assembly **100** comprises two translatable catches **102** mounted to the platform **40**, one in each of the first and the second lateral end regions **54***a*, **54***b*. The purpose of each translatable catches **102** is to selectively allow engagement and prevent disengagement of the platform coupler **65** into a respective one of the engagement coupling apertures **74***a*, **74***b*. The translatable catches **102** are mounted to the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* of the platform **40**. However, it is appreciated that, in other embodiments (not shown), the translatable catches **102** can be mounted to other components of the platform assembly **24** or other components the spaced-apart rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*, such as and without being limitative, the platform mounting brackets **42** or the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c*. As will be described in more details below, each one of the translatable catches **102** includes a section superposed to the lateral section **50***a*, **50***b* and a section superposed to the walking panel **52**. Each one of the translatable catches **102** is selectively configurable into two configurations: an unlocked configuration (see FIGS. **8**, **10**, **12** and **13**) and a locked configuration (see FIGS. **7**, **9** and **11**). In the unlocked configuration, one platform coupler **65** can be inserted in and disengaged from the respective one of the engagement coupling apertures **74***a*, **74***b*. In the locked configuration, one platform coupler **65** cannot be inserted or disengaged from the respective one of the engagement coupling apertures **74***a*, **74***b*. In the embodiment shown, each translatable catch **102** is configurable in a selected one of the locked and unlocked configurations, independently of the others translatable catches **102** of the platform assembly **24**. It is understood that in other embodiments, all the translatable catches can be configured in the unlocked and the locked configurations independently from one another. In an alternative embodiment, the translatable catches can be configured at the same time (e.g., simultaneously) in the locked or the unlocked configurations.

[0103] A non-limitative embodiment of the translatable catch **102** will now be described in further details. The two translatable catches **102**, provided at opposed ends of the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* of the platform **40** being substantially similar, only one will be described.

[0104] For each one of the translatable catches **102**, the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* of the platform **40** has a sliding slot **106** defined therein, in the first and the second lateral end regions **54***a*, **54***b* respectively. The sliding slot **106** extends parallel to the lower edge **72** and has, for example, an obround shape. The translatable catch **102** is mounted to the platform **40** via a respective one of the sliding slots **106** and is translatable therein, as will be described in more details below.

[0105] The translatable catch **102** comprises an outer base **104** superposed outwardly to the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b*, a handle **110** superposed to the walking surface **53**, outwardly thereof, and a slide lock **108** superposed inwardly to the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b*. The slide lock **108** is connected to the outer base **104** via two mechanical fasteners extending through the sliding slot **106** and slidable therein. In the locked and unlocked configurations, the slide lock **108** respectively obstruct and free the opening of the engagement coupling aperture **74***a*, **74***b* to prevent or allow passage of the respective one of the platform coupler **65**. Therefore, the

slide lock **108** is moveable between an open position and a closed position, corresponding respectively to the unlocked and locked configurations of the translatable catch **102**. For the engagement coupling aperture **74***a*, in the locked configuration of the translatable catch **102**, the slide lock **108** obstructs the insertion segment **76***a*.

[0106] To selectively configure the translatable catch **102** in the locked configuration or the unlocked configuration, the handle **110** can be manipulated by translating same along the walking surface **53**.

[0107] It is understood that, in other embodiments (not shown), the locking assembly **100** and/or the translatable catches **102** can differ from the embodiment shown. For instance and without being limitative, they can include a pivotable actuator or a different linear actuator from the one shown, or other suitable actuation mechanism. The translatable catches **102** can also be spring loaded in the locked configuration by including a biasing member. In other words, the sliding lock **108** can be biased in the locked configuration by a biasing member, such as a spring, and an voluntary action must be taken by a user to configure it into the unlocked configuration to either inserted in or disengage the platform couplers **65** from the post couplers **44**.

[0108] As mentioned above, in some implementations, the racking system **20** further includes one or more ladder **26** (only one is shown in FIG. **1**).

[0109] In such implementation, as shown in FIG. **3**, the platform assembly **24** can include at least one ladder coupler **81** provided on at least one of the lateral sections **50***a*, **50***b* of the frame **46** of walking platform **40**. In an embodiment, the ladder coupler(s) can be provided at both lateral end regions **54***a*, **54***b*.

[0110] In the embodiment shown in FIGS. **1** and **6**, the ladder **26** includes a frame **82** with a plurality of steps **84**, a platform mounting side **86**, and a platform coupler **88** detachably engageable with the at least one ladder coupler **81**, as will be described in more details below.

[0111] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the platform assembly **24** includes two ladder couplers **81**, located in (or adjacent to) a respective one of the lateral end regions **54***a*, **54***b*, and the platform coupler **88** comprises two horizontally spaced-apart platform couplers **88**. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the ladder couplers **81** are female members and, more particularly, include ladder coupling openings extending through the lateral section **50***a*, **50***b* of the frame **46**, inwardly of the post couplers **44**. In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the ladder coupling openings **81** are pyriform, e.g., pear-shaped, with a larger upper substantially-circular section and a narrower semi-circular section.

[0112] The platform couplers **88** are complementary male members protruding from the ladder frame **82**, on the platform mounting side **86**. The platform couplers **88** are substantially similar to a section of the platform couplers **65** and, more particularly, the section protruding outwardly of the flanges **60** of the platform mounting brackets **42**. More particularly, they include a narrower stem **90** and a larger head **92**.

[0113] The upper substantially-circular section of the ladder coupling openings **81** have a diameter greater than a diameter of the head **92** of the platform couplers **88** to be insertable therethrough. The semi-circular section has a diameter greater than a diameter of the stem **90** but smaller than a diameter of the head **92** of the platform couplers **88** to prevent undesired disengagement between each pair of the platform couplers **88** and the ladder couplers **81**.

[0114] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, the ladder **26** includes male members as platform couplers **88** and the platform assembly **24** includes complementary female members. It is appreciated that, in an alternative embodiment (not shown), the ladder **26** can include the female members and the platform assembly **24** can include the complementary male members.

[0115] In the non-limitative embodiment shown, each one of the ladder **26** and the platform assembly **24** includes two spaced-apart platform and ladder couplers **88**, **81**. However, it is appreciated that, in alternative embodiments (not shown), each one of the ladder **26** and the platform assembly **24** can include only one or more than two platform and ladder couplers **88**, **81**.

[0116] It is appreciated that the shape and the configuration of the platform and ladder couplers **88**, **81** can vary from the embodiment shown, provided that they are selectively engageable and disengageable together.

[0117] There is also provided a method for detachably mounting the walking platform **40** to the racking system **20** described above, between two consecutive rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*.

[0118] The consecutive rows of racks **22***a*, **22***b*, e.g., a first row and a second row, are first configured in a horizontally spaced-apart configuration with the walking space **25** defined inbetween.

[0119] The platform mounting brackets **42** are secured to vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the frames **30** of the racks of the first row and the second row. The platform mounting brackets **42** can be secured to the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* before configuring same in the horizontally spaced-apart configuration. For instance, they can be secured once at a selected height and remain there. As mentioned above, at least four platform mounting brackets **42** of the first and the second rows **22***a*, **22***b* are mounted at the same height, e.g., two on each one of the rows **22***a*, **22***b*.

[0120] The first lateral end regions **54***a* of lateral sections **50***a* of the frame **46** of the walking platform **40** are engaged with the platform mounting brackets **42** secured to the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the first row **22***a*.

[0121] Then, the second lateral end regions **54***b* of the lateral sections **50***b* of the frame **46** of the walking platform **40** are pivoted above the platform mounting brackets **42** secured to the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the second row **22***b*. The second lateral end regions **54***b* of the lateral sections **50***b* of the walking platform **40** are then engaged with the platform mounting brackets **42** secured to the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the second row **22***b* by pivoting downwardly the walking platform **40** to configure the walking platform **40** in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

[0122] The platform **40** can be configured in the collapsed/substantially vertical configuration by disengaging the second lateral end regions **54***b* of the lateral sections **50***b* of the walking platform **40** from the platform mounting brackets **42** secured to the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the second row **22***b* and pivoting the platform **40** downwardly about the first lateral end regions **54***a* engaged with the platform mounting brackets **42** secured to the vertically-extending posts **32***a*, **32***c* of the first row **22***a*.

[0123] In the above description, an embodiment is an example or implementation of the inventions. The various

appearances of "one embodiment," "an embodiment" or "some embodiments" do not necessarily all refer to the same embodiments.

[0124] Although various features of the invention may be described in the context of a single embodiment, the features may also be provided separately or in any suitable combination. Conversely, although the invention may be described herein in the context of separate embodiments for clarity, the invention may also be implemented in a single embodiment.

[0125] Reference in the specification to "some embodiments", "an embodiment", "one embodiment" or "other embodiments" means that a particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiments is included in at least some embodiments, but not necessarily all embodiments, of the inventions.

[0126] It is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology employed herein is not to be construed as limiting and are for descriptive purpose only.

[0127] Furthermore, it is to be understood that the invention can be carried out or practiced in various ways and that the invention can be implemented in embodiments other than the ones outlined in the description above.

[0128] It is to be understood that the terms "including", "comprising", "consisting" and grammatical variants thereof do not preclude the addition of one or more components, features, steps, or integers or groups thereof and that the terms are to be construed as specifying components, features, steps or integers.

[0129] It is to be understood that where the claims or specification refer to "a" or "an" element, such reference is not be construed that there is only one of that element.

[0130] It is to be understood that where the specification states that a component, feature, structure, or characteristic "may", "might", "can" or "could" be included, that particular component, feature, structure, or characteristic is not required to be included.

[0131] It will be appreciated that the methods described herein may be performed in the described order, or in any suitable order.

[0132] Several alternative embodiments and examples have been described and illustrated herein. The embodiments of the invention described above are intended to be exemplary only. A person of ordinary skill in the art would appreciate the features of the individual embodiments, and the possible combinations and variations of the components. A person of ordinary skill in the art would further appreciate that any of the embodiments could be provided in any combination with the other embodiments disclosed herein. It is understood that the invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the central characteristics thereof. The present examples and embodiments, therefore, are to be considered in all respects as illustrative and not restrictive, and the invention is not to be limited to the details given herein. Accordingly, while the specific embodiments have been illustrated and described, numerous modifications come to mind. The scope of the invention is therefore intended to be limited solely by the scope of the appended claims.

1. A racking system comprising:

at least two rows of racks configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between, each one of the racks comprising a first side and a second side, opposed to the first side, a first pair of vertically-extending posts located on the first side and a second pair of vertically-extending posts located on the second side; and

a platform assembly comprising:

a walking platform having a frame with longitudinal sections and lateral sections and a walking panel mounted to the frame and defining a walking surface, each one of the lateral sections having opposed lateral end regions;

platform mounting brackets securable to the vertically-extending posts of the first pair and the second pair on a side delimiting the walking space at a same height, each one of the platform mounting brackets having a platform coupler; and

post couplers provided on each one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform in each one of the lateral end regions, each one of the post couplers comprising a post coupling aperture extending through a respective one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform, the post couplers being engageable with a respective one of the platform couplers of the platform mounting brackets to configure the walking platform in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration, wherein at least one of the post coupling apertures of each one of the lateral sections of the frame is open on a lower edge thereof.

2. The racking system of claim **1**, wherein at least one of the at least two rows of racks is horizontally displaceable towards and away from the other one of the at least two rows of racks and the at least two rows of racks are selectively configurable in a collapsed configuration wherein consecutive ones of the at least two rows of racks are in contact and a horizontally spaced-apart configuration wherein the walking space is defined between consecutive ones of the rows of racks.

3. The racking system of claim **1**, wherein the vertically-extending posts have a plurality of vertically-spaced apart mounting apertures extending therethrough, the platform assembly further comprises bracket fasteners and the platform mounting brackets are detachably secured to the vertically-extending posts by inserting the bracket fasteners into respective ones of the mounting apertures defined in the vertically-extending posts.

4. The racking system of claim **1**, wherein the platform mounting brackets are substantially U-shaped and comprise two flanges superposable to opposed sides of a respective one of the vertically-extending posts and a joining section connecting the two flanges together.

5. The racking system of claim **1**, wherein each one of coupling apertures is open on the lower edge a respective one of the lateral sections of the frame.

6. The racking system of claim **1**, wherein each one of the platform couplers comprises a protruding male member insertable into a corresponding one of the post coupling apertures.

7. The racking system of claim **6**, wherein a first one of the post coupling apertures in a first one of the lateral end regions is substantially L-shape and comprises an insertion segment opened on the lower edge and a locking segment extending towards a lateral end of the first lateral end region.

8. The racking system of claim **7**, wherein a second one of the post coupling apertures in a second one of the lateral end regions defines an oblique angle with the lower edge of

the respective one of the lateral sections, having a closed end closer to a lateral end of the second lateral end region.

9. The racking system of claim **1**, wherein the platform assembly further comprises a locking assembly selectively configurated in a locked configuration preventing engagement and disengagement of at least one of the post couplers with the corresponding platform mounting bracket and an unlocked configuration allowing engagement and disengagement of at least one of the post couplers with the corresponding platform mounting bracket.

10. The racking system of claim **9**, wherein the locking assembly comprises at least one translatable catch slidably mounted to the frame of the platform in a respective one of the lateral end region and selectively obstructing a corresponding one of the post coupling apertures.

11. A method for detachably mounting a walking platform to a racking system comprising at least two rows of racks configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between, the method comprising:

securing platform mounting brackets to vertically-extending posts of a respective frame of the rack of a first row of the at least two rows of racks and a respective frame of the rack of a second row of the at least two rows of racks, the vertically-extending posts of the first row and the second row delimitating the walking space, the platform mounting brackets being mounted at a same height;

engaging first lateral end regions of lateral sections of a frame of the walking platform with the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the first row;

pivoting second lateral end regions of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform above the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the second row;

engaging the second lateral end regions of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform with the platform mounting brackets secured to the vertically-extending posts of the second row to configure the walking platform in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

12. The method of claim **11**, wherein each one of the platform mounting brackets comprises a post coupler including a post coupling aperture extending through a respective one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform and wherein at least the post coupling aperture of the second lateral end region is opened at a lower edge thereof, wherein the first lateral end regions and the second lateral end regions are engaged with the platform mounting brackets by inserting the post couplers in a respective one of the post coupling apertures.

13. The method of claim **12**, further comprising locking at least one of the post couplers in the respective one of the post coupling apertures by translating a translatable catch in a locked configuration to obstruct the respective one of the post coupling apertures.

14. A racking system comprising:

at least two rows of rack configurable in a spaced-apart and substantially parallel configuration to define a walking space in between, each one of the racks comprising a first side and a second side, opposed to the first side, a first pair of vertically-extending posts located on the first side and a second pair of vertically-extending posts located on the second side;

a platform assembly comprising:

a walking platform having a frame with longitudinal sections and lateral sections and a walking panel mounted to the frame and defining a walking surface, each one of the lateral sections having opposed lateral end regions, the walking platform being detachably securable to the vertically-extending posts of the first pair and the second pair on a side delimiting the walking space and configurable in a substantially horizontal and walkable configuration; and

at least one ladder coupler provided on at least one of the lateral sections of the frame of walking platform; and

a ladder comprising a frame with a platform mounting side and a platform coupler detachably engageable with the at least one ladder coupler when the platform is configured in the substantially horizontal and walkable configuration.

15. The racking system of claim **14**, wherein at least one of the at least two rows of rack is horizontally displaceable towards and away from the other one of the at least two rows of racks and the at least two rows of racks are selectively configurable in a collapsed configuration wherein consecutive ones of the at least two rows of racks are in contact and in a horizontally spaced-apart configuration wherein the walking spaced is defined between consecutive ones of the at least two rows of racks.

16. The racking system of claim **14**, wherein the vertically-extending posts have a plurality of vertically-spaced apart mounting apertures extending therethrough and the platform assembly further comprises bracket fasteners and platform mounting brackets, the platform mounting brackets are detachably secured to the vertically-extending posts by inserting the bracket fasteners into respective ones of the mounting apertures defined in the vertically-extending posts.

17. The racking system of claim **14**, wherein the at least one ladder coupler comprises two ladder couplers, each one comprising a ladder coupling opening extending through the at least one of the lateral sections of the frame in a respective lateral end region thereof and the platform coupler comprises male members protruding from the plateform mounting side of the frame in an upper section thereof, the male members being selectively engageable and disengageable with a corresponding one of the ladder coupling openings.

18. The racking system of claim **17**, wherein each one of the ladder coupling openings is pyriform.

19. The racking system of claim **14**, wherein the platform assembly further comprises post couplers in each one of the lateral end regions of each one of the lateral sections of the frame of the walking platform, wherein each one of the post couplers comprises a post coupling aperture extending through a respective one of the lateral end regions, with at least one of the post coupling apertures being opened on a lower edge of the respective one of the lateral sections.

20. The racking system of claim **19**, wherein the platform assembly further comprises a locking assembly selectively configuration in a locked configuration preventing engagement and disengagement of at least one of the post couplers with the corresponding platform mounting bracket and an unlocked configuration allowing engagement and disengagement of at least one of the post couplers with the

corresponding platform mounting bracket, wherein the locking assembly comprises at least one translatable catch slidably mounted to the frame of the platform in a respective one of the lateral end region and selectively obstructing a corresponding one of the post coupling apertures.

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