

NOTES

2 THE HELICAL STAIR

1. Mary Whiteley (1985, 16) suggests that, contrary to the speculations of Viollet-le-Duc, the stair was square rather than circular, with a solid rather than hollow newel, and without the second stairway that he thought was built within the hollow newel.

2. Lise Bek (1985, 118) argues that Alberti's aversion is a polemical criticism of courtly tradition in that he rejects the stair's (secondary) function as a link between areas of differing importance in the building. She suggests that as a humanist, he opposes an audience ceremonial that limits the doctrine of equality—between host and guest, for example—and advocates (architectural) equality “for a harmonious interrelation between free men.” This might be a more persuasive argument if Alberti was a product of the baroque. In book V, Alberti himself says of the house, “the principal Parts may be allotted to the principal occasions; and the most honorable, to the most honorable.”

3 COMPOSITE STAIRS

1. Wilkinson (1975) details the three stages of development as the first flight was increased from a single bay to a double bay and ultimately to its final three-bay form, under the personal interest of Prince Philip. Covarrubias's stair was designed to occupy five bays rather than the much grander nine bays that were finally built.

2. Wilkinson (1975) discusses these events in considerable detail.

3. Evidence produced in lawsuits of the time “charged that the Cardinal's [Ippolito d'Este's] archaeologist Ligorio showed no respect for private property, that he had owners imprisoned or banished.” David R. Coffin, *The Villa d'Este at Tivoli* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1960), 8.

4. Sohm (1985) mentions comparable political activities on stairs of similar form at the Palazzo dei Consoli at Gubbio, the Palazzo dei Priori at Perugia, and the Palazzo Comunale at Cortona.

5. According to McAndrew (1980, 99) Rizzo was a scoundrel who managed to steal some 12,000 of the 80,000 ducats budgeted for construction at the palace.

6. As Wilkinson (1975) has pointed out, the design of this palace has been traditionally attributed to Rocco Lurago. Recent studies suggest that the building may have been designed by Domenico and Giovanni Ponsello.

7. These are but the most important examples in an age of great staircases. One cannot dismiss the particularly rich heritage of northern Italy and Sicily, particularly the villas of Piacenza, Florence, Palermo, and Bologna and the works of Torreggiani, Piacentini, Ruggieri, Silvani, Giganti, and Arrighi (discussed by Wittkower 1968, 390–392, 400).

8. For a fuller discussion on this topic, see Mar-der (1962) and Gillies (1972).

9. For a fuller discussion on this dispute, see Kodre (1983).

This is a section of [doi:10.7551/mitpress/6433.001.0001](https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/6433.001.0001)

The Staircase

History and Theories

By: John Templer

Citation:

The Staircase: History and Theories

By: John Templer

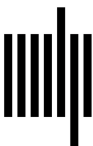
DOI: 10.7551/mitpress/6433.001.0001

ISBN (electronic): 9780262367813

Publisher: The MIT Press

Published: 1995

The open access edition of this book was made possible by generous funding and support from The National Endowment for the Humanities/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Humanities Open Book Program.



The MIT Press

Second printing, 1994

© 1992 Massachusetts Institute of Technology

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form by any electronic or mechanical means (including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval) without permission in writing from the publisher.

Open access edition funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Humanities Open Book Program.

The text of this book is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License:
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

This book was set in Bembo and Copperplate by DEKR Corporation and was printed and bound in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication
Data

Templer, John A.

The staircase : history and theories / John Templer.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-262-20082-1

1. Staircases—History. I. Title.

NA3060.T46 1992

721'.832'09—dc20

91-16960

CIP

Publication of this book has been aided by a grant from the Georgia Tech Foundation and the College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology.