

42 OF THE ELEMENTS OF

the steps. The best constructed staircases, particularly spiral ones, are those which are void in the middle, both that they may receive light from above, and likewise that persons ascending and descending may see one another.

Among the strait staircases, which at present are most common, some are oblong, and consist of two ascents, with an oblong landing placed between them, or they are square. In the square ones let the space be divided into four parts, and two given to the steps, two to the void, in which the thickness of the wall will be included, if there be a wall instead of a void.

Sometimes the narrowness of the place obliges the architect to make steps in the angles of the landing places; in this case, making the angle of the landing the centre, and its breadth a radius, describe a quadrantal arch, and divided it into as many parts as the radius has feet.

From these elementary rules for the construction of staircases, an almost infinite variety in them is produced, which it is needless to speak of in the detail. Let the architect pay attention to the best models; and, furnished with these general principles make use of his own judgment in his designs; remembering, at the same time, that the due construction and commodious placing of them will call for the utmost exertion of the powers of his art.

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