

El Pliegue Complejo. La Escalera.

The complex fold. The stairs



Author: [María Carreiro Otero](#) [1]

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The staircase, that complex fold, belongs to the system of architectural treatises as well as to that of manuals. The staircase responds to all of them, but also escapes them all, with a position of its own in the architectural process. This book makes an invitation to a journey through the folding device that inhabits the world of architecture, and does so by adopting the form of a manual. As such, it first tries to narrow the concept of staircase, to later explore the elements that compose it and the rigorous dimensional geometry it is subjected to, as well as the forms it may adopt, which is synonymous with layout, a layout ... like a print, outlined in its path, regardless of clothing or material that may dress it.

And time, stairs have evolved in their geometry, layout, appearance ... The time of stairs walks together with the spacial system which surrounds them and it is part of; the manual does not speak of history and linear evolution, but of stages which are reached without forgetting the previous ones, permeable stages that overlay each other..., each of which shows a face of the stairs, one aspect linked to their spacial intention.

This book invites us to contemplate the staircase, that complex fold, beyond its appearance, delving into the aspects that determine its character and turn it into a significant part of architecture.

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Address: C/ Rafael Alberti, 6 Bajo Izq. Santa Cristina 15172 Oleiros – A Coruña

Contact: Cristina Seco

Phone: +34 981 91 55 00

E-mail: cseco@grupobiblo.com [3]

Website: <http://www.netbiblo.com> [4]

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Starting from the importance of the staircase as the backbone of circulations in an architectural project, architect María Carreiro presents the manual The complex fold. The staircase which seeks firstly to set boundaries to the concept of staircase and then goes on to explore the elements that compose it and the geometry to which it is subjected. Straight stairs, segmented, circular or mixed stairs and all their variants are at the centre of another chapter dedicated to the diversity of shapes that a staircase can adopt and features a multitude of examples illustrated with plans and photographs. A last chapter also underlines how the staircase takes a prime position in the architectural process as well as its own mode of development mutable in time and with stylistic changes. The book ends with a comprehensive annex offering a glossary of terms as well as technical information that invite the reader to delve into the character of the staircase beyond its simple appearance.

Revista De Arte, 7, 2008 | pages 235-236

“... The result is an exceptional work illustrated with a wide range of photographs, drawings, and elevations of

various staircases, just to supplement its entertaining reading.”

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