

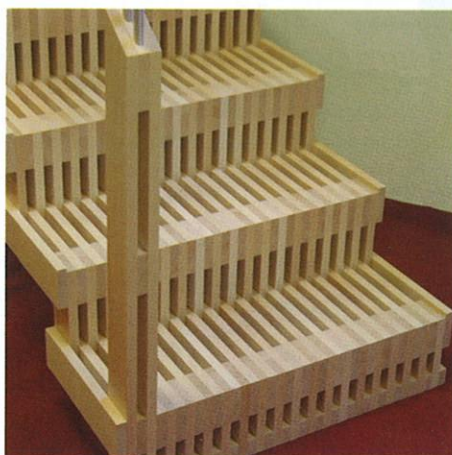


Staircases as an architectural design element

Developers and architects often deliberately deploy staircases as design elements. Hallways with staircases, which in the past were designed as separate areas, are nowadays often integrated into the living area for cost and space reasons. Solid hardwood offers a wide palette of design possibilities. Currently in demand are core beach, American walnut and maple. Visible annual rings, a distinctive grain and lively structures together make up the individual character of these wood types. German oak is making a comeback as a high-contrast wood, while dark woods such as ovengol display a

touch of the exotic. By combining them with other materials, a wealth of variations can be created. Steel and glass are the two most popular elements, e.g. square- and round-shaped stainless steel banisters, and stainless steel guardrails and handrails. Pure glass panes used as banisters enable a simple design. Also popular are steel stringboards that are paintable in different colours.

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Design and craftwork

Kynast's new folded plate bar staircases are characterized by transparency, lightness and linearity. They combine traditional craftsmanship with modern design. The 2-cm-wide joints between the individual bars result in an attractive interplay of light and shadow, and also increase skid resistance. The steps can be covered with glass, stainless steel or marble.

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Straightforward installation

Kreuzberger now offers steel, nickel-plated wall bolts with sound insulating rubber for the »TreVe-System« for wooden and flat steel stringboards. These enable airy staircases without stringers to be installed between two walls. Once the bolts have been anchored in the wall, the step is placed on the connector from above and screwed down from below. Winding corner steps are also easy to install.

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Twin elevators for Australia

ThyssenKrupp Elevator Australia has won the contract for a total of 34 elevators and escalators for the planned Raine Square office complex in Perth. The building will be fitted with six innovative »Twins«, an elevator system exclusively offered by ThyssenKrupp.

Using the Twin, people can reach their destination floor more quickly. At the same time, this unique elevator system, which sees two cabins travelling independently and at different speeds in the same shaft, saves valuable space. In Raine Square the lower cabins will travel at a speed of 2.5 m/sec, and the upper cabins at a speed of 4 m/sec. This increases the conveying capacity of the system and reduces waiting times. The customer opted for ThyssenKrupp's Twin system due to its numerous advantages over conventional elevators.

Raine Square will consist of an office tower with a shopping centre beneath it. The planners of the 28-storey building have laid great emphasis on installing efficient and sustainable solutions, as represented by ThyssenKrupp's innovative and energy-efficient products.

Twin is already being used or has been installed in buildings in a number of different countries. Frankfurt's Main Triangel office complex includes the world's first panoramic Twin, while the new Royal London Hospital will in future use Bed-Twins to convey patients quickly and securely. Other projects are currently in the planning stage.

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