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Your Staircase

Ten designing women show off staircases that take beauty and style to new heights.

Interviews by JULIA LEWIS



"This light-filled staircase leads up to the master suite in my country house. Years ago, I commissioned a San Francisco artist to create this chinoiserie wallpaper just for me."

ANN GETTY, INTERIOR DESIGNER

"The massive staircase in my 1895 house is all about the beautiful carved woodwork—one of the newel posts holds a lantern that I call my 'Victorian disco ball.' For balance, I've kept the rest of the surroundings quiet and modern."

DARA ROSENFELD, INTERIOR DESIGNER



"There's so much going on in my center hall that I wanted to downplay the staircase. I painted it white and lined the wall from wainscot to ceiling with large, antique, gilt-framed mirrors that bring in light, add sparkle, and multiply the chandelier from one to many."

ANNIE BRAHLER
INTERIOR DESIGNER



"Glossy black paint is my favorite way to give stairs a refined, elegant look. The sheen reflects light and makes the space feel more important. Sometimes I use a sisal runner with a velvet border to tone down the effect a bit."

SHELLEY JOHNSTONE PASCHKE
INTERIOR DESIGNER



"Our house is a 1946 Rudolph Schindler design. I love the plywood stairwell. He was a sculptor of space, and this passage shows how he used geometry to manipulate light and reflection."

PAMELA SHAMSHIRI, INTERIOR DESIGNER >>

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