



# The Staircase: Studies of Hazards, Falls, and Safer Design

*By John Templer*



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**The Staircase: Studies of Hazards, Falls, and Safer Design** By John Templer

John Templer has written the first theoretical, historical, and scientific analysis of one of the most basic and universal building elements: the stair. Together, these two volumes present a detailed study of stairs and ramps -- the art and science of their design, their history, and their hazards.

For the designer and the art and architectural historian, the first volume treats the fascinating history of stairs and their immense influence on the art and science of architecture. It is illustrated with more than 100 photographs from around the world and reviews the literature on stairs (as well as ladders and railings and ramps) from Vitruvius to Venturi. Templer considers the whole play of meanings in the idea of the stair -- as art object, as structural idea, as legal prescription, or as poetic fancy -- making it clear that the stair is simultaneously an aesthetic, architectonic, ergonomic, and cultural element. The second volume shows the dangers stairs present. Drawing on twenty years of human factors research on stairs, Templer sets out what is known about slips, trips, and falls and how best to design stairs to avoid their inherent dangers. He discusses the physiological and behavioral relationship between humans and stairs and walkways, the question of gait and slippery surfaces, and the various types of falls and the injuries that result. Perhaps most importantly, Templer proposes the idea of the soft stair, which could substantially reduce the annual epidemic of stair-related deaths and injuries.



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## **The Staircase: Studies of Hazards, Falls, and Safer Design By John Templer Bibliography**

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

Few scholars could have written a more erudite and comprehensive history of the staircase, on the one hand; or a more clinical analysis of their behavior-eliciting impact upon the user, on the other; but no one could have done a more distinguished job on both than this two-volume study of the subject by Dr. Templer. With it before us, it is hard to imagine what remains for us to do - except to improve both the formal beauty and functional proficiency of future stairs.

(James Marston Fitch)

Anyone reading either of these volumes will never be able to look at staircases the same way again. By learning the history of stairs, we appreciate the rich vocabulary possible in their design and bemoan its absence in our era. By learning about safe stair construction, we come to understand how astonishingly little attention has been paid to this subject...If our public spaces are to encourage our sense of self-worth, community, and citizenship; if our private dwellings are to be more than merely machines for living, then books like this pair will undoubtedly form part of our re-education.

(Thomas Frick *Los Angeles Times*)

I have waited a long time to read a work like John Templer's *The Staircase*. Its achievement of several objectives makes these unique volumes about buildings and about architecture. They blend the joy of aesthetics with the rigor of building science. They draw from historical, laboratory, and field research. They provide the passion of someone who clearly delights in architecture, yet they display the crispness of the analyst who sees how buildings can better work for their users. This is a model product of architectural research.

(Michael L. Joroff, Director, MIT Laboratory of Architecture and Planning)

### **About the Author**

John Templer, formerly Regents' Professor of Architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology, has published extensively on architecture including theory, human factors research, and designing for the elderly and disabled. He is also an expert on legal cases involving bodily injury caused by falls.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **James Bardsley:**

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students because they are still students or the idea for all people in the world, the actual best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that question above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby per other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great along with important the book *The Staircase: Studies of*

Hazards, Falls, and Safer Design. All type of book can you see on many resources. You can look for the internet options or other social media.

**Catrina Hall:**

The reason? Because this The Staircase: Studies of Hazards, Falls, and Safer Design is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will jolt you with the secret this inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such awesome way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

**Charles Collier:**

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**Lena Robertson:**

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