ARCHITECTURE IN THEORY: CIRCULATION

Movement through Space
Architecture is not a static experience

• Circulation routes:
  • The way to enter, go through and go around a building.
• They help people to understand the architecture as they move through a building and its spaces.
Circulation routes
Circulation routes
CIRCULATION: HORIZONTAL: **ramps**

**Interior of the Museum of Decorative Arts, Frankfurt**
by Richard Meier

**Proposed Los Angeles Times Editorial Facility - atrium**

**Penguin Pool London Zoo**
CIRCULATION: HORIZONTAL: travelators
CIRCULATION: VERTICAL: escalators
CIRCULATION: VERTICAL: elevators
CIRCULATION: VERTICAL: stairs

alternating tread stairs

Steps-ankor
CIRCULATION: VERTICAL: stairs

Fire Escape

Fire Station Poles

Spiral Staircase
CIRCULATION: VERTICAL: staircase

Diagram showing stairway measurement types:
- Pitch line
- Tread depth
- Rise height
- Run

Diagram showing stairway measurement types
Staircase and escalators at Cabot Circus shopping centre, Bristol, England
CIRCULATION ELEMENTS: Approach
The Distant View
Frontal

St. Peter’s Cathedral
Fushimi Inari Shrine
Qian Men

To come or go near or nearer to...
CIRCULATION ELEMENTS: Approach
The Distant View Frontal

Villa Barbaro, Maser, Italy, Andrea Palladio, 1560 - 68
CIRCULATION ELEMENTS: Approach
The Distant View
Oblique

Site Plan, Town Hall at Saynatsalo, Finland 1950-52, Alvar Aalto
The Distant View
Oblique

Philip Johnson Glass House, Connecticut
CIRCULATION ELEMENTS: Approach
The Distant View
Asymmetrical

MODENA:
I. Piazza delle Legna.
II. Piazza Grande.
III. Piazza Torre.
CIRCULATION ELEMENTS: Approach
The Distant View
Spiral

Falling Water - FLW

The Acropolis, Athens, Greece
CIRCULATION ELEMENTS: Path – Space Relationships
Edges, Nodes and Terminations of the Path
Pass through Spaces

Farnsworth House, Plano, Illinois, 1950, Mies van der Rohe

St. Peter’s and the piazza, Rome
Pass through Spaces

Carcassone Castle
Mortuary Temple of Rameses III, Medinet-Habu, 1198BC
Terminate in a Space

Angkor Wat
Terminate in a Space

Santa Maria della Pace, Rome, Donato Bramante, 1500 - 04
A circulation Space may be:

• **ENCLOSED**: forming a public walk-through space or private corridor that relates to the spaces it links, through entrances in a wall plane.
A circulation Space may be:

OPEN ON ONE SIDE:
Forming a balcony or gallery that provides visual and spatial continuity with the space it links

Cloister of Santa Maria della Pace, Rome, Donato Bramante, 1500 - 04
A circulation Space may be:

**OPEN ON BOTH SIDES:**
Forming a colonnaded passageway that becomes a physical extension of the space it passes through.

Central Beheer, Apeldoron, 1970's, Herman Hertzberger
A circulation Space may be:

**OPEN ON BOTH SIDES:**
Forming a colonnaded passageway that becomes a physical extension of the space it passes through

Central Beheer, Apeldorom, 1970’s, Herman Hertzberger