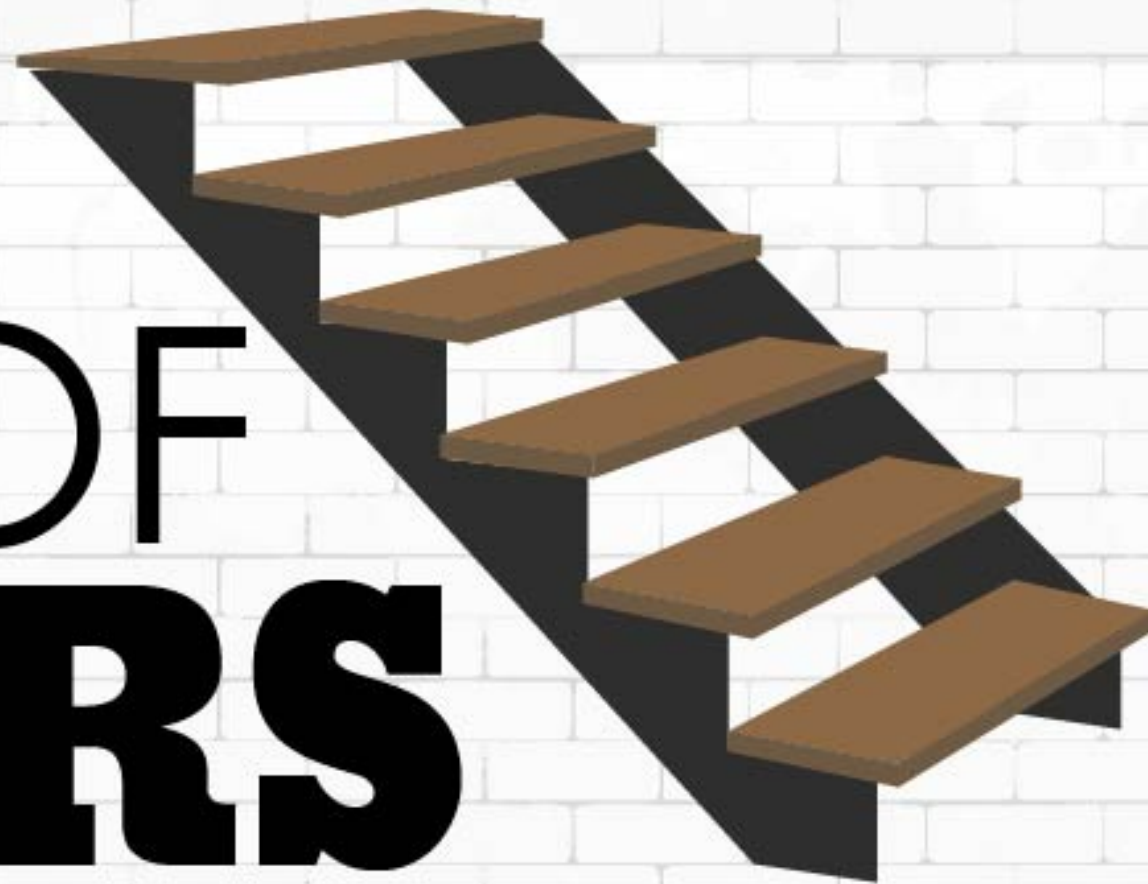


TYPES OF STAIRS



STRAIGHT STAIRS



ADVANTAGES:

- Straight stairs tend to be the easiest to go up and down.
- Easy to construct
- Straight stairs only need to be connected at the top and the bottom (no intermediate supporting structure is required).
- They work well with minimalist designed homes due to their inherent simplicity.
- By selecting thinner treads, open risers and thin metal stringers, straight stairs can be made more transparent than other types of stairs allowing less obstruction to the view beyond.
- It's relatively easy to build railings and handrails for straight stairs.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Straight stairs use up a fair amount of linear space which has to be planned for in your design.
- Long open space or high ceiling required
- A stair 12 feet high requires a landing to break up the span. The addition of a landing will use up a lot more space and therefore these types of stairs are seldom used in residential construction. You will see these more frequently in large commercial buildings.

L SHAPED STAIR (QUARTER TURN STAIRS)



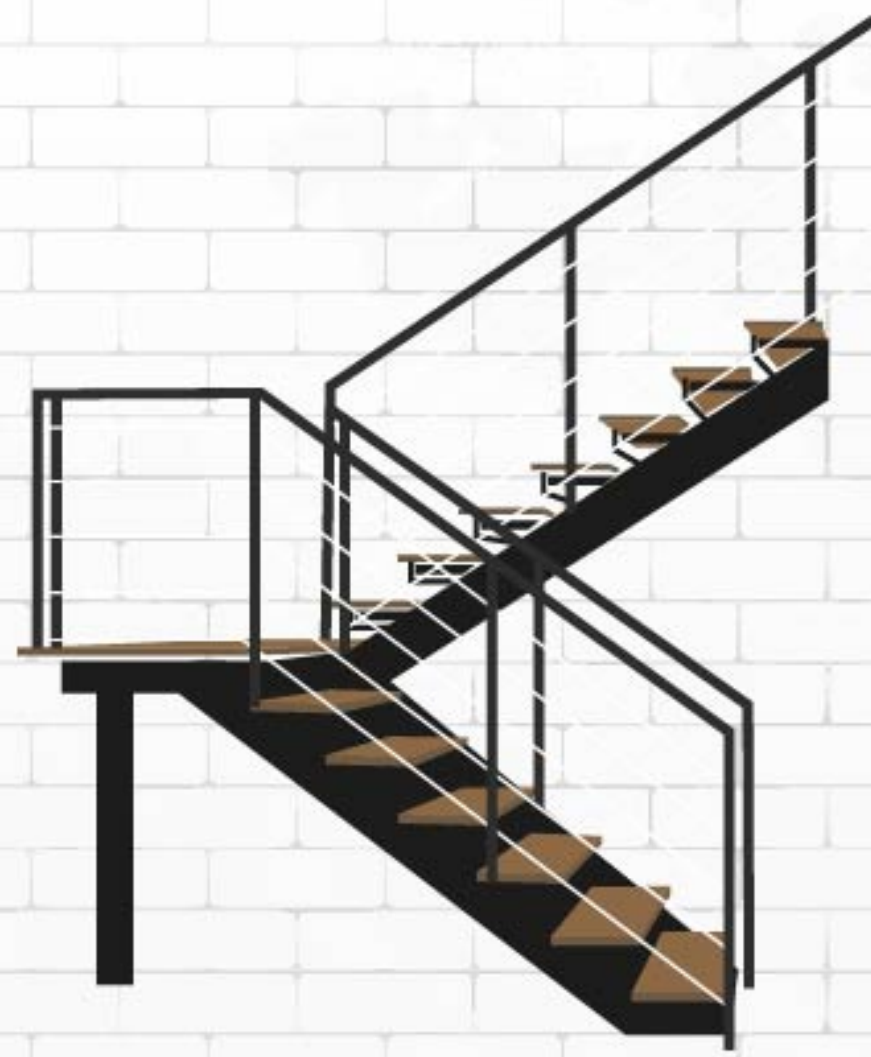
ADVANTAGES:

- L Stairs can be more visually interesting.
- They provide a visual barrier between floors so they can add some privacy.
- L Stairs can help somewhat with sound transmission between floors if the stairs are contained within walls.
- Some believe they are safer than straight stairs as the central landing reduces the number of treads one could fall in a given flight.
- The landing can provide a place to stop and rest while ascending.
- They can be located in a corner of a room.

DISADVANTAGES:

- L shaped stairs are a bit more difficult to build.
- A support is typically required for the landing in a L type stair.
- Handrails for these types of stairs require more skill and planning to construct.

U SHAPED STAIRS (HALF TURN OR HALF LANDING STAIRS)



ADVANTAGES:

- U shaped stairs can be easier to fit into an architectural plan.
- They offer some architectural interest.
- The landings can offer a resting point part way up the stairs.

DISADVANTAGES:

- These types of stairs are a bit more difficult to build and need extra support.

WINDER STAIRS (SINGLE & DOUBLE)

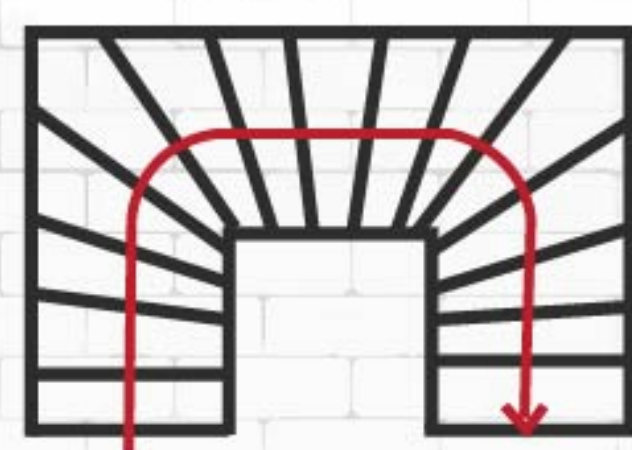


ADVANTAGES:

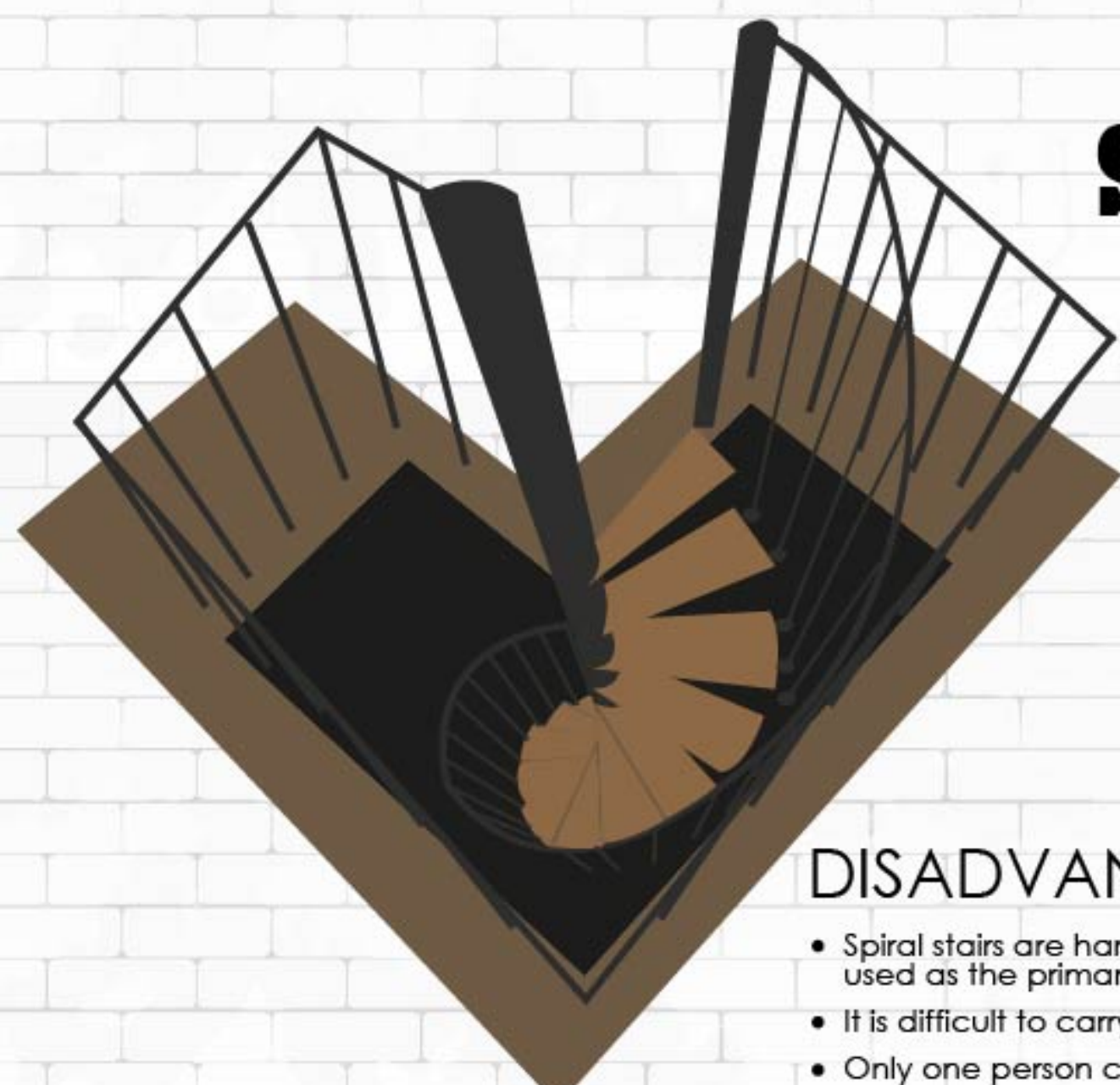
- The main advantage of winder stairs is that they require less space than many other types of stairs. They have more visual interest. Winder stairs seem to create a more seamless transition, visually, as they meander around corners. For this reason they have gained popularity in modern homes. Their compactness has also made them attractive in sustainable home designs.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Winder stairs are a little harder to navigate than L stairs.
- It can be more difficult to add a handrail to these than some of the other types of stairs.
- A center support is typically required.



SPIRAL STAIRS



ADVANTAGES:

- One of the key advantages of spiral stairs is they can be used where little space is available.
- Spiral stairs can be attractive and there are many variations on railings styles which can have a major impact on the overall appearance of the stair.
- Since the center pole and landing typically provide much of the structural support for the stairs, they do not need much in the way of extra support structures making installation easier than most types of stairs.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Spiral stairs are hard to climb. It is for this reason that codes do not allow them to be used as the primary access to a full second floor of a home.
- It is difficult to carry large items up spiral stairs.
- Only one person can go up or down the stairs at the same time.

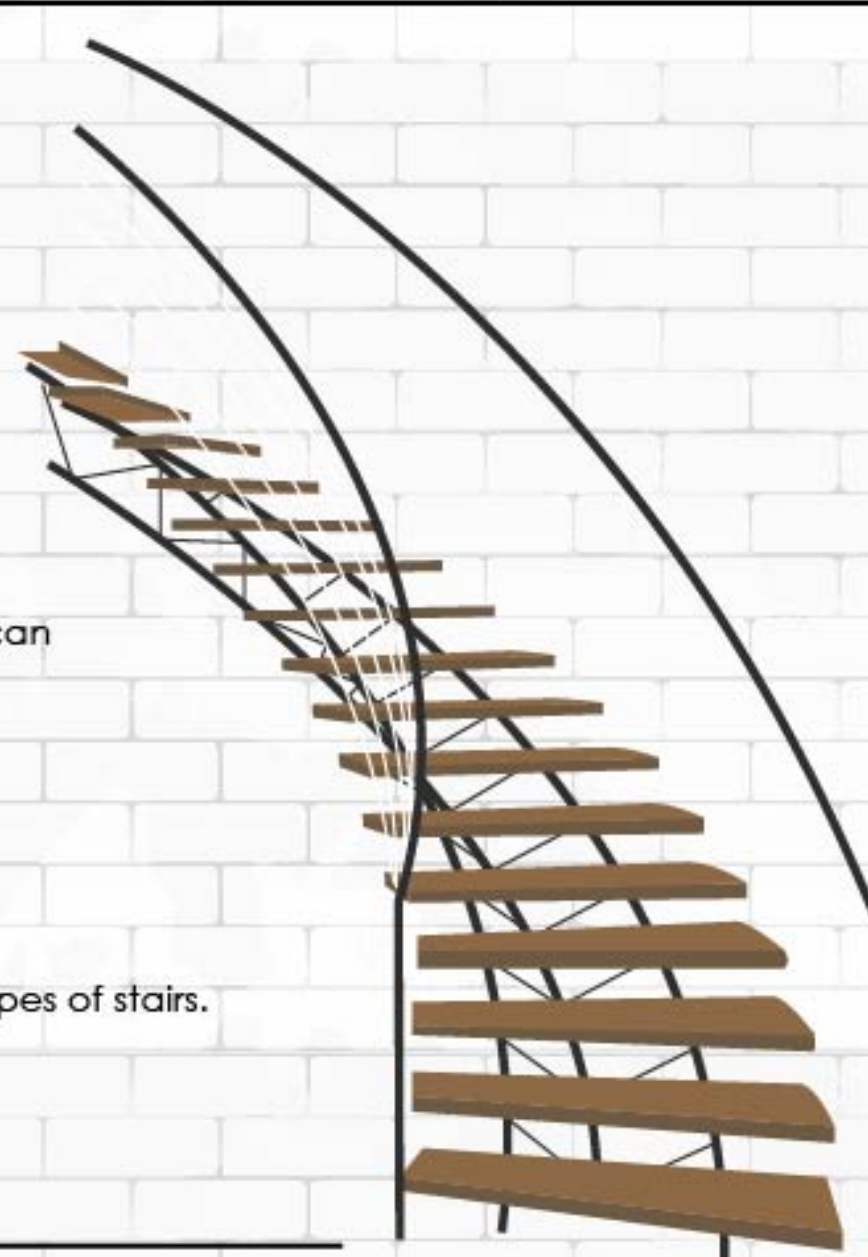
CURVED STAIRS

ADVANTAGES:

- Curved staircases are often very elegant and traditional but this type of design can equally be adapted to contemporary designs.
- They are relatively easy to walk up.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Curved stairs are by far the most difficult to build of the various types of stairs.
- They are the most costly to build.



LADDERS



ADVANTAGES:

- The most compact way to get from one floor to another.
- Very cost effective due to their simple design.
- Can have wheels or fold up to move them out of the way when not in use or to prevent access.
- Can be used to access shelves that would be too high to reach normally.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Ladders are the most difficult to climb, especially while descending.
- Cannot be used as a primary staircase.

SOURCES

<https://www.keuka-studios.com/types-of-stairs/>
<http://popularstairs.com/basic-stair-building/stairs-types>
<http://www.arden.net.au/resources/Articles/Comparison-of-stair-types.aspx>

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