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Staircases and halls

Staircases, halls and landings in town houses and city flats are often just seen as thoroughfares, but with a little attention, they can become a part of the house that is as visually appealing as they are useful. ELIZABETH METCALFE explains how to make the most of these in-between spaces

The playful decorative scheme of this staircase draws the two floors together. Designer Suzy Hoodless opted for a black and white striped wallpaper that slants along the staircase and also complements the contrasting black treads and white risers. suzyhoodless.com ▷

expert
tips

SUZY HOODLESS

interior
designer

'It is important to do something interesting with hall walls, as if provides drama, looks glamorous and can easily be wiped. A mural is also a great way of adding excitement to the space. Floor tiles are good at giving an insight into what is to come in the rest of the house, but they must be practical and able to resist wear and tear.'



GLOSS PAINT

Sury recently used Little Greene's 'Atomic Red' intelligent gloss paint for a hall. It costs £27 for 1 litre. littlegreene.com



FIVE OF THE BEST: HALL BENCHES

1 'Bobbin Bench', 43 x 122 x 38cm, £1,046, from Julian Chichester. julianchichester.com

2 'Double Lucca Bench', 75.3 x 163.7 x 52.8cm, £2,801, from William Yeoward. williamyeoward.com

3 'Crillon Bench', 43.5 x 152.5 x 58.4cm, from £4,500, from Soane. soane.co.uk

4 'Talia White Bench', 45.5 x 120 x 33cm, £180, from Habitat. habitat.co.uk

5 'Victorian Gothic Bench', 52 x 138 x 39cm, £1,950, from Guinevere. guinevere.co.uk



These open-tread cantilevered stairs not only make a visual impact, but the routed oak panelling also disguises storage. A glass screen is an important safety precaution and ensures the striking cross-section of the staircase is on show, with a table in front providing space to display flowers and books.



A shamrock-green wallcovering by de Gournay and a leopard-print bench give this hall a fresh and modern feel. For a similar leopard-print fabric that makes a luxurious statement, try Le Manach's 'Leopard Silk Velvet', which costs £1,709 a metre. degournay.com | lemanach.fr