

# STAIR DESIGN GUIDE



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**COMPASS**  
**IRONWORKS**

Elegance and Integrity

At Compass Ironworks, we carry into the 21st century the Amish traditions that forged our artistic sensibilities: honesty, integrity, and dedication to family, community, and craft. We do no mass production here; every installation reflects your unique needs. We are master craftsmen who work with both traditional and 21st century tools. At the end of the day, we close the doors and leave our tools at the shop, not to be touched until the next workday begins.

For more information about Compass Ironworks, please contact us Monday through Friday at (717) 442-4500.

In a home with multiple levels, stairs provide access to those multiple floors. They can be floating stairs, glass staircase, contemporary spiral staircase or traditional curved stairs, the options on endless.

However, there is a huge surge of interest in specifying structural steel stairs and utilizing a variety of materials to showcase the interior designer, architect or clients own sophisticated design statement. Masonry, bronze, reclaimed, glass, stainless, wood and Iron materials. These materials are being utilized in all aspects of the stairs, treads, risers railing and handrail.

What used to be a given, install a traditional stair, has now turned into a phenomenal design opportunity for designers, selecting their design forte of contemporary, traditional, rustic, modern, eclectic or reclaimed to make their wow factor in design uniquely theirs.

Our expertise is not traditional wood stairs, wood treads and wood railings, but uniquely designed and engineered metal stringers, incorporating suspended treads, glass railing and contemporary railing profiles for the latest in design and the best in stair value.

## The Craftsmen

The craftsmen at Compass Ironworks are experienced craftsmen from Lancaster County, dedicated to creating works of art out of metal elements. Every craftsman works directly with the client, architect or designer to make sure the client's vision is captured for the project. And at the end of the project, another person has become a satisfied client.

These craftsmen can provide guidance through the entire process. Starting at the inspiration stage, they can provide various examples of past work. If you need a custom design, they can provide design drawings for a small fee, then assist you in the design phase. The following stage would be a pre-fabrication meeting for the design stage, to evaluate all structural, anchoring and code requirements involved, making sure all bases are covered. Then comes the crucial step of actually crafting the project, which is commenced by many onsite measurements and sometimes even building templates. The actual forging, welding and fabrication is followed by extensive clean-up. Next is the in-house pretreatment and the baked-on powder-coat finish. Finally the entire delivery and installation is coordinated and managed by the craftsman that built the project, which makes for a smoother transaction.



# ❧ STAIR INSPIRATION IDEAS



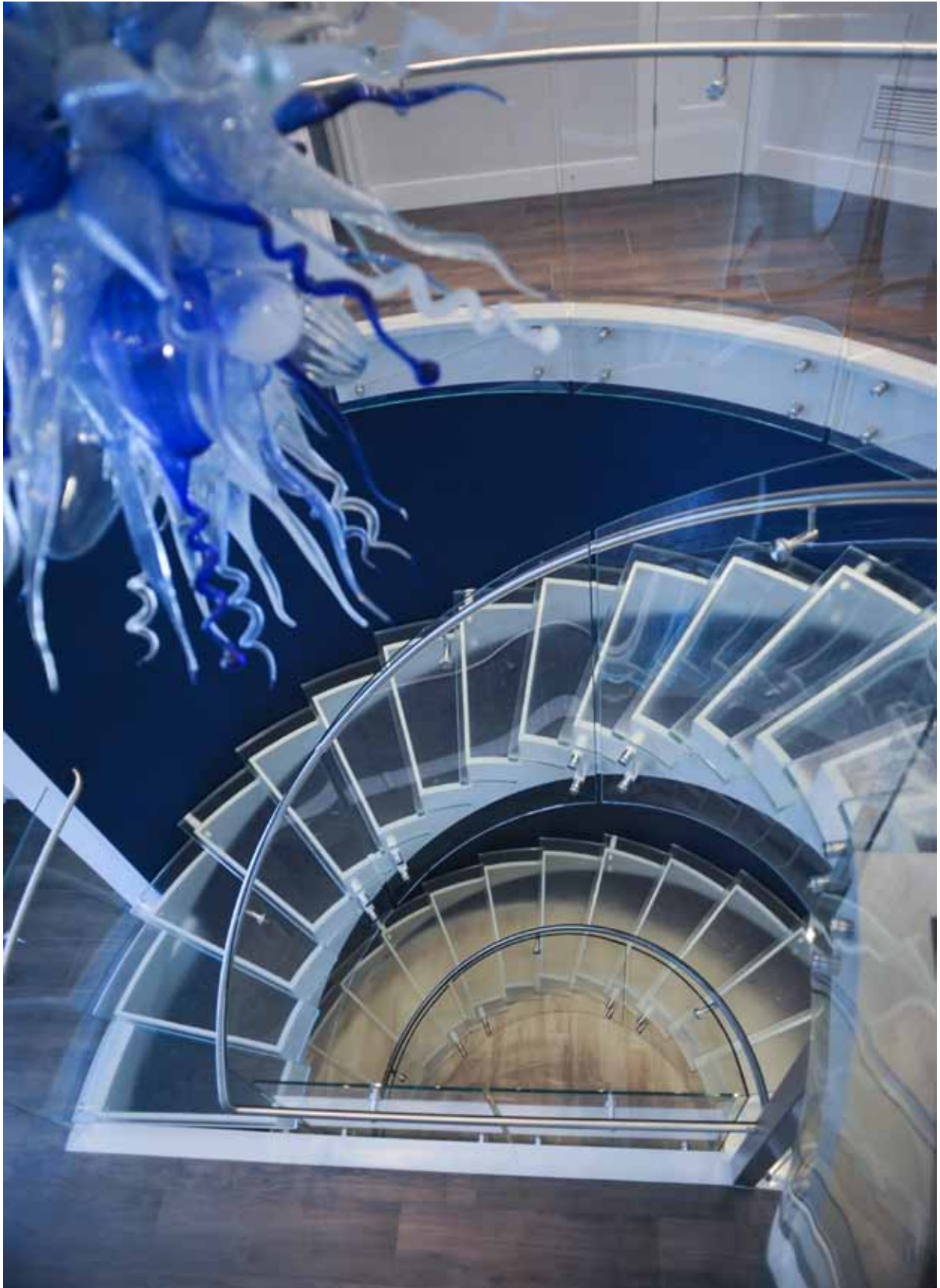
Floating stairs with masonry treads for a shore home

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Curved stairs inside an old sile to provide to upscale dining in a renovated barn





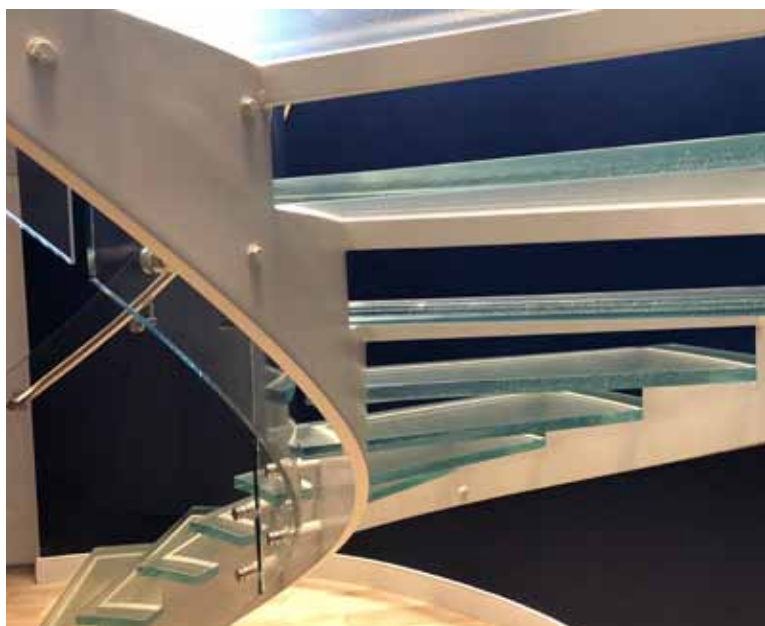
Two flights of glass stairs



Translucent glass treads on curved stair



Double flights of curved glass stairs and glass railings



Left: Polished stainless handrail

Right: View of structural steel stair with glass treads





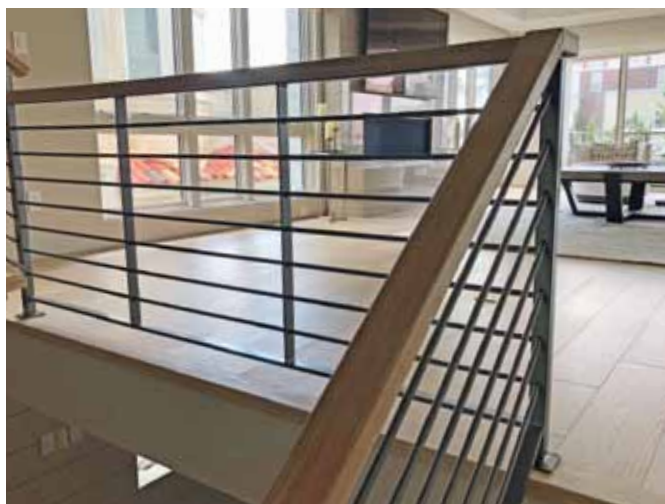
Steel center stringer stair



Multiple flights of  
contemporary stairs



Contemporary railing with wood top



Left: Level railing in living room

Right: Modern Railing on Wood Stair







Part of a 6 flight stair

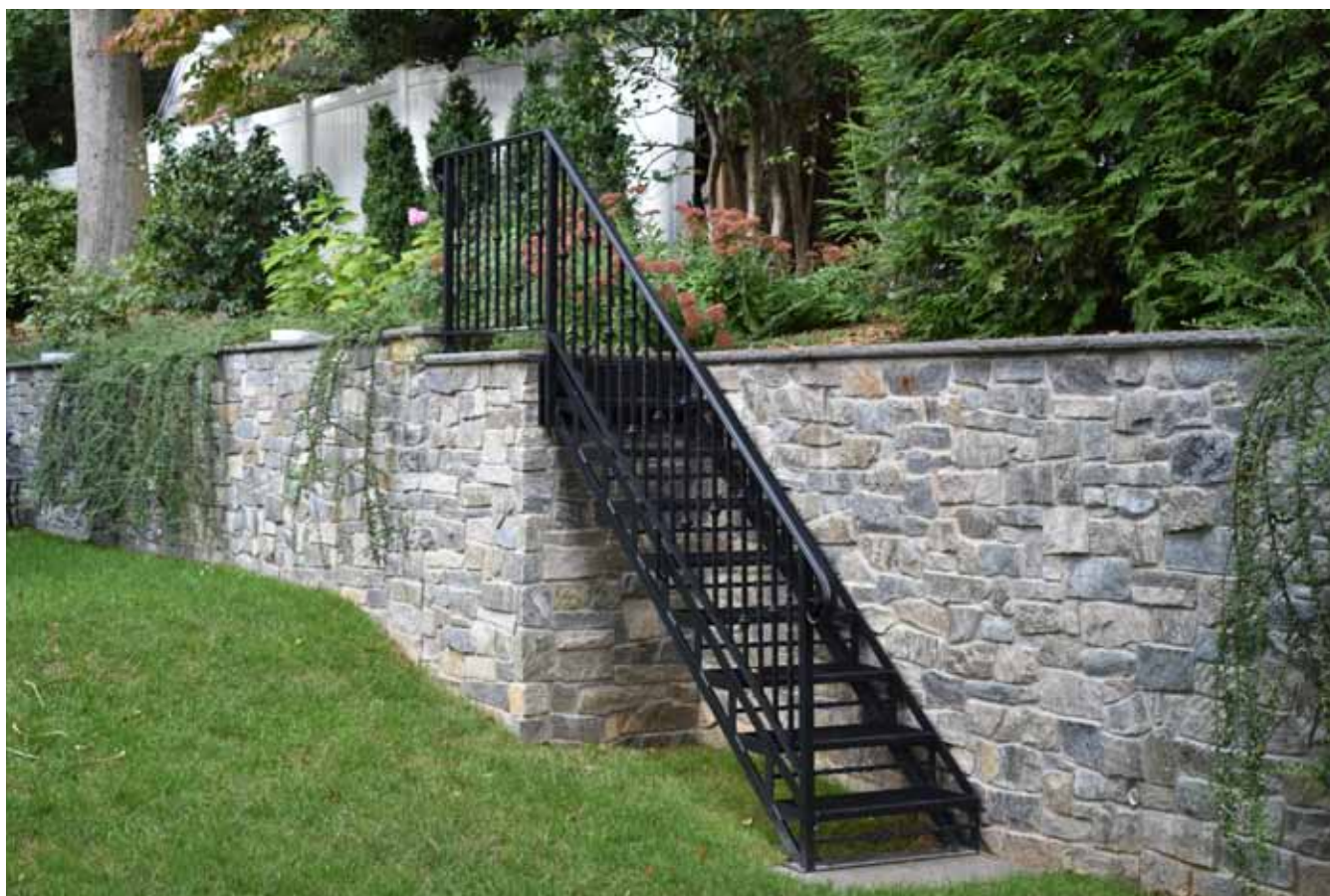




The beauty of glass railing on a landing and switch back stairs

Modern sculptural  
stair constructed is  
challenging radius





Specially created garden stairs with pervious treads provides access to garden terrace



Underside of the structural steel



# SPIRAL STAIR INSPIRATION



Interior spiral staircase provides beauty and accessibility for this multi-level private library

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If you are looking for a quick cheap spiral stair, we are not the best choice. If you are looking for a quality, superbly crafted spiral stair, we are a good fit. And with what we provide with a single welded spiral stair unit, with skirt welded to the outside of the treads makes for a very strong stair, unmatched for strength and rigidity. Plus, the dimensional trim at top and bottom of skirt adds visual and structural character as well.

We can provide unparalleled value in spiral stairs, factoring into the design your choice of wood, masonry or metal treads to match your surrounding deck surface.

Your spiral stair from Compass Ironworks will not just be a cookie cutter stair kit, assembled with bolts and screws. It will be one pre-designed and solid welded structure that will need to be hoisted into place. Fastened into place, it will provide you with many years of elegant service and quality.



Solid welded  
construction of  
treads



Sleek spiral stair for  
access to matches  
balcony railing



Ipe treads on stair  
match balcony  
floor





Transcending  
Spiral Stair on  
shore home



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