

SO

International Association for People-Environment Studies aims to improve the physical environment and human well-being

# Bulletin

## of People-Environment Studies



No 31 Spring-Summer 2007  
ISSN: 1301-3998

**The social and spatial perception  
of Granada (Spain)**

*by Andrés Rodríguez  
Ricardo García-Mira, Victoria Zarcos  
José M. González and Isabel Beltrán*

**Reflections on place attachment  
and favourite places**

*Patrick Devine-Wright*

**2008 IAPS CONFERENCE: "URBAN DIVERSITY  
BIOSPHERE AND WELL-BEING"**

Rome, Italy. 28-July to 1-August 2008  
website: [www.iaps2008.com](http://www.iaps2008.com)

This issue was partially sponsored by:



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### SUMMARY

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**EDITORIAL ADDRESS:** Ricardo García Mira.....1

#### THE SOCIAL AND SPATIAL

**PERCEPTION OF GRANADA** .....3

Andrés Rodríguez Fernández

Ricardo García Mira

Victoria Zarco Martín

José María González González

Isabel Belda Suárez

#### REFLECTIONS ON PLACE ATTACHMENT AND FAVOURITE PLACES

Patrick Devine-Wright.....6

**NEWS**.....9

**EVENTS**.....11

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** .....14

**BOOKS**.....22

#### THE STAIRCASE AND THE HOUSE:

##### ARCHITECTURE OF MOVEMENT

María Carreiro Otero.....24

#### PARTICIPATION AND INDEPENDENCE IN OLD AGE; ASPECTS OF HOME AND NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENTS.

Haak, Maria.....26

#### WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AND THE "NIMBY PHENOMENON":

##### THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND INDIVIDUAL CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTABILITY

Aimée Casal.....27

#### THE CHALLENGE OF WATER-TERRITORY, IDEN- TITY AND CONFLICT OF USE

Oscar Navarro-Carrascal.....28

#### IAPS NETWORKS ACTIVITIES

Aleya Abdel-Hadi.....31

**IAPS NETWORKS**.....32

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# THE STAIRCASE AND THE HOUSE: ARCHITECTURE OF MOVEMENT

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The staircase, because of its position, can generate architectural types that apply to the house as a whole. These types are autonomous and independent of the geometry of the staircase, linked rather to the model of staircase, which brings to life the staircase of treatises and manuals, examples of which we can observe over the course of the 20th century.

But what is the staircase? Dictionary attempts to define it are too aseptic to appreciate its true essence.

The staircase is intimately linked with the person, with those who move on it. We define it as a rolling corridor, which folds are known as stairs, which must be adapted to the human step, in order that the foot be supported and the rhythm and pace of the stair-arrangement be constant.

We study the shape and geometry of the staircase, paying particular attention to the stair, comprising a tread and elevation, as the generator of the whole structure. We talk about the history of the staircase, of the flow and superimposition of periods.

Why have a staircase in the house? A house needs several floors, making the staircase a natural element.

The staircase finds its way into the house and looks for its place. Each place takes an adjective. Each attributive use of the staircase corresponds to a category of house, a type.

The adjective for the staircase located at the axis of symmetry is symmetrised, because the staircase is an axis of symmetry.

The staircase found at the other axis is known as axial, taking axis as the significant element.

The interior staircase that continues outside is called juxtaposed: the stairwell is positioned at the side of the house served by it.

The staircase that forms a wall is said to be walled, being a sort of separating wall, however light the body of the structure.

The interior staircase preserves the same adjective, internal, as it is the most accurate word.

The continuous staircase is called complex because it is a single staircase with several sections, which may be spiral or straight. The staircase moves and cannot be defined as a single staircase, being rather one or several units, interlaced according to the levels served by it/them.

The multiple-level staircase is a plural staircase, in view of the fact that it is not a single staircase, but rather multiple staircases organising the whole domestic structure.

And the house. To each staircase, a house. The dialectal

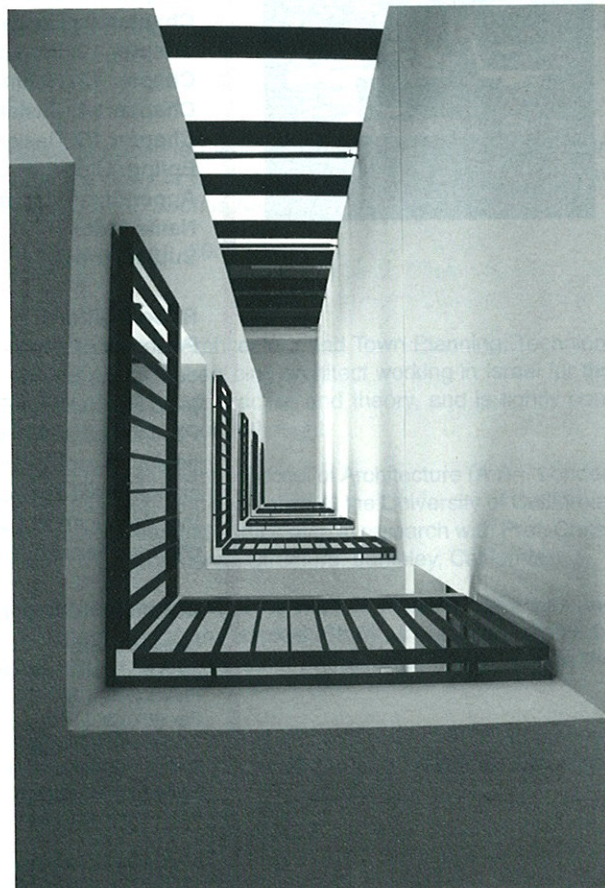
between the part and the whole leads us from the defined staircase to the defined house.

The symmetrised staircase generates the planned house; the axial staircase, the organised house; the juxtaposed staircase, the dissociative house; the walled staircase, the interiorised house; the internal staircase, the centrifugal house; the complex staircase, the staggered house; the plural staircase, the extended house.

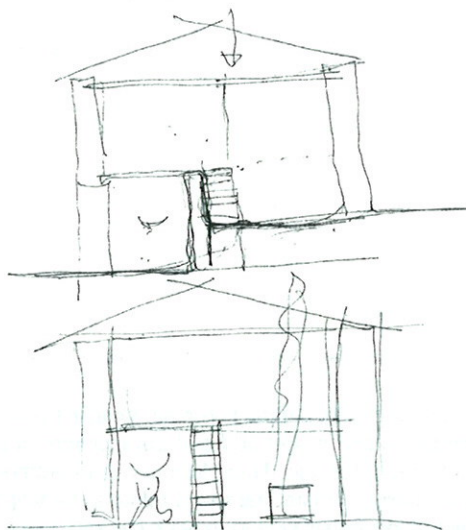
Seven places, seven types: fourteen houses, two for each type. All falling within the frame of the 20th century, re-designed and synthesised to draw the design out from underneath the skin of an age.

And so, using the staircase as our theme, we have arrived at a definition of a typological system relative to the house.

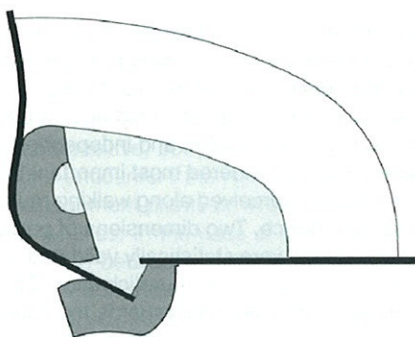
We have demonstrated the autonomy of these types with respect to the geometry of the staircase, which shape and size do not affect the formulation of the type; both belong to the body and final image. The staircase has been brought to life: the conditions of the house, its surface, its size, the mark of the staircase, prevail over rules and regulations.



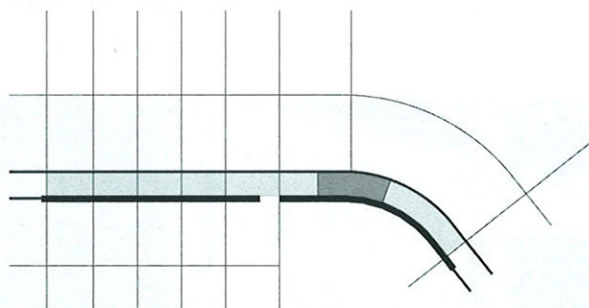
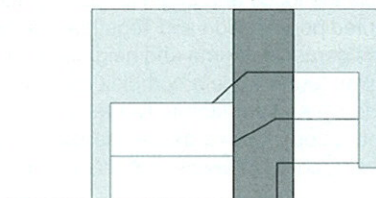




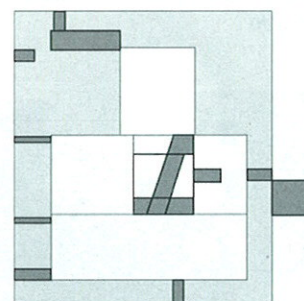
(3.2.02) The first stairs



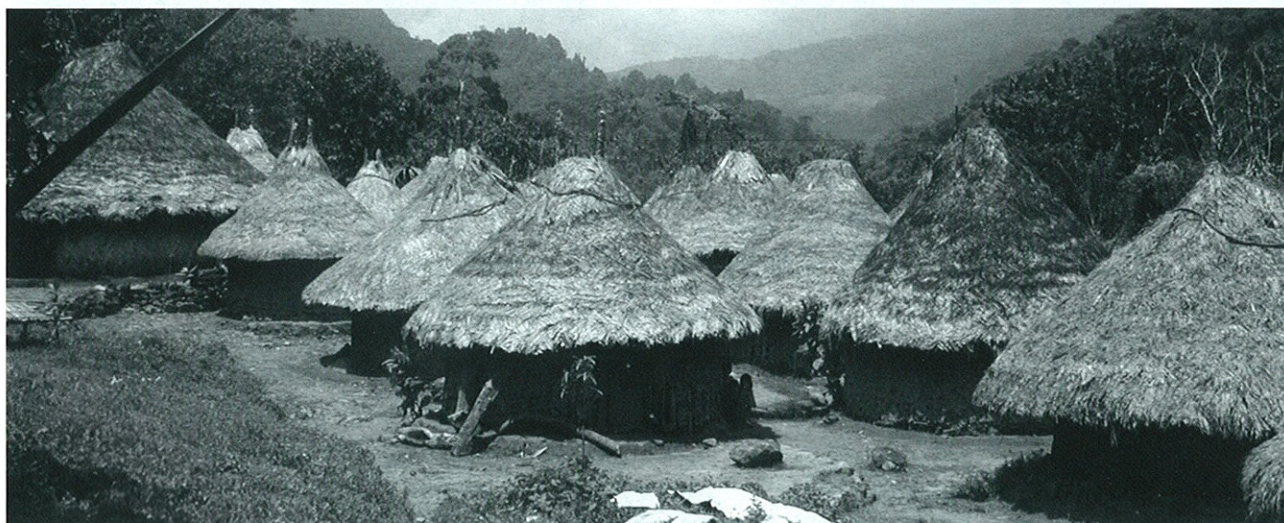
(Dr\_Arce-esquema)  
Arvesú house (A. de la Sota, 1953)  
The walled staircase and the interiorised house



(jacobson-esquema)  
Jacobsen house (A. Jacobsen, 1924)



(zimmermann-esquema)  
Section and plan. Zimmermann house (W. Turnbull, 1974)  
The complex staircase and the staggered house





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