



ASCEND

Staircase Design Challenge for Students.

<https://uni.xyz/competitions>



Img 1: Evolution of staircases and its changing significance through the years

Staircase

A building is composed of many elements. Wall, window, door, ledge, parapet and even stairs – they all help in making a design stand.

Staircase or simply stairs is a construction designed to bridge a vertical distance by dividing it into smaller vertical steps. It is a means to transit. An idea that configures the stability of a place. A symbol of comfort and luxury. A necessity. A piece of fashion. An exhibition of imperial power. A **staircase is a building component that showcases diverse possibilities.** A complex element to solve geometrically, it is one of the most demanding design elements at a functional level.

It also an opportunity to define a **function beyond circulation.** Between its formal resolution and a need for function, the staircase can be made to have different roles.



Img 2: Need to expand staircase beyond it's function of circulating people

Brief

A client's input is critical in anchoring directives for designing a building, For an experience that is highlighted by the demands of the user, it is **necessary for a designer and the client to work in unison.**

The aim of the competition is for the participants to **design a staircase, in collaboration with the client.** Their two-story house has already been planned except the main staircase, which they expect to be the status symbol of the property. Intent is to design a staircase and allow it to **expand beyond its function of circulating people**



Emilia, 5

How will you describe yourself Emilia?

My name is Emilia. I am 5 years old. I was born in Melbourne on January 19th. I love wonder woman and want to become the strongest person when I grow up. I love Math's, Art and English. My favourite food is ice-cream,

Tell something about your family.

I love my mum and papa. I love when we all huddle up together in my bed and they choose to tell stories from their childhood. It is the best time of the day. But they both are very busy these days. I sometimes feel alone

What do you want in your design?

A place to have fun. Something where mum, papa and I can be together.

Client Profile

Client profile, as name suggests is a **brief information of the client in question**. The insight will give a better understanding of the user. Personal interpretation of which can be made by participants to derive design directives.

The client in question is a **family of 3 who shifted to New Zealand an year ago** and are planning to settle down. The house was designed by another architect who has completed the plans. But now the client is looking for a different flavor. They want the **staircase to be unique, something that stands out** and isn't particularly responding to the another architect's vision. *Further information on client in additional resource*



Jane, 38

How will you describe yourself Jane?

I was born on September 5th in Suffolk, UK. I am younger of the two siblings and did my graduation in journalism from Melbourne. I moved in with Sam to New Zealand after his promotion and getting granted a post of editor in chief for a leading newspaper. We have a daughter named Emilia, who is my world.

I love to travel and I collect a lot of mementos for reverence. Japan being my all time favorite destination. I strongly advocate for rights of equality between all genders, race, class and have written many columns on it.

What do you want in your design?

I really feel staircases are underappreciated and under designed in houses. It leads you into a new dimension. A world (floor) unknown. We want our staircase to dictate the language of our house - the interior, construction, material, elevation. We want to be surprised and have something beyond the conventional use of transit.. Besides that, I like my spaces to be warm and light.



Sam, 36

How will you describe yourself Sam?

Born on July 17th, I am an Australian born in a family of four. My mother is from an Indian descent and my father an Australian. I immigrated to New Zealand last year after getting promoted to a higher position in a software development company. I moved in here with my wife Jane and daughter, Emilia.

I love animals and am a strong advocate for their rights. I have been a vegan for the past 6 years and I am grateful for that change. Besides that I love to write, and had it not been for the idea of 'stability' would have persuaded writing. I love Sufi music and being a voracious reader, *Killing a Mockingbird* is always something I will recommend.

What do you want in your design?

Having worked for the past 15 years, the idea of settling down is comforting. So a design that exudes warmth, puts me at ease after a tiring day at work but also excites me. It shouldn't be mundane or conventional.



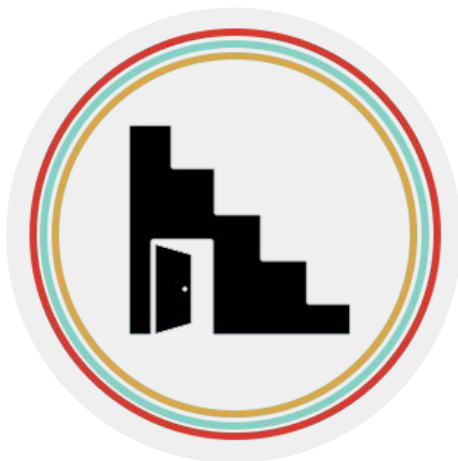
Interior

Furniture, Finishes, Flooring,
Material Palette



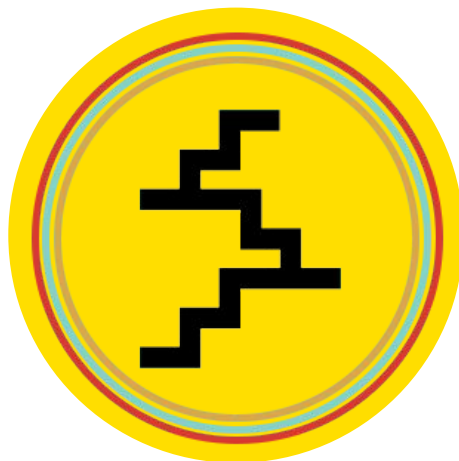
Lighting

Natural Lighting as well as
Fixtures used in the design



Function

Function of the staircase
beyond it being a means to
circulate vertically



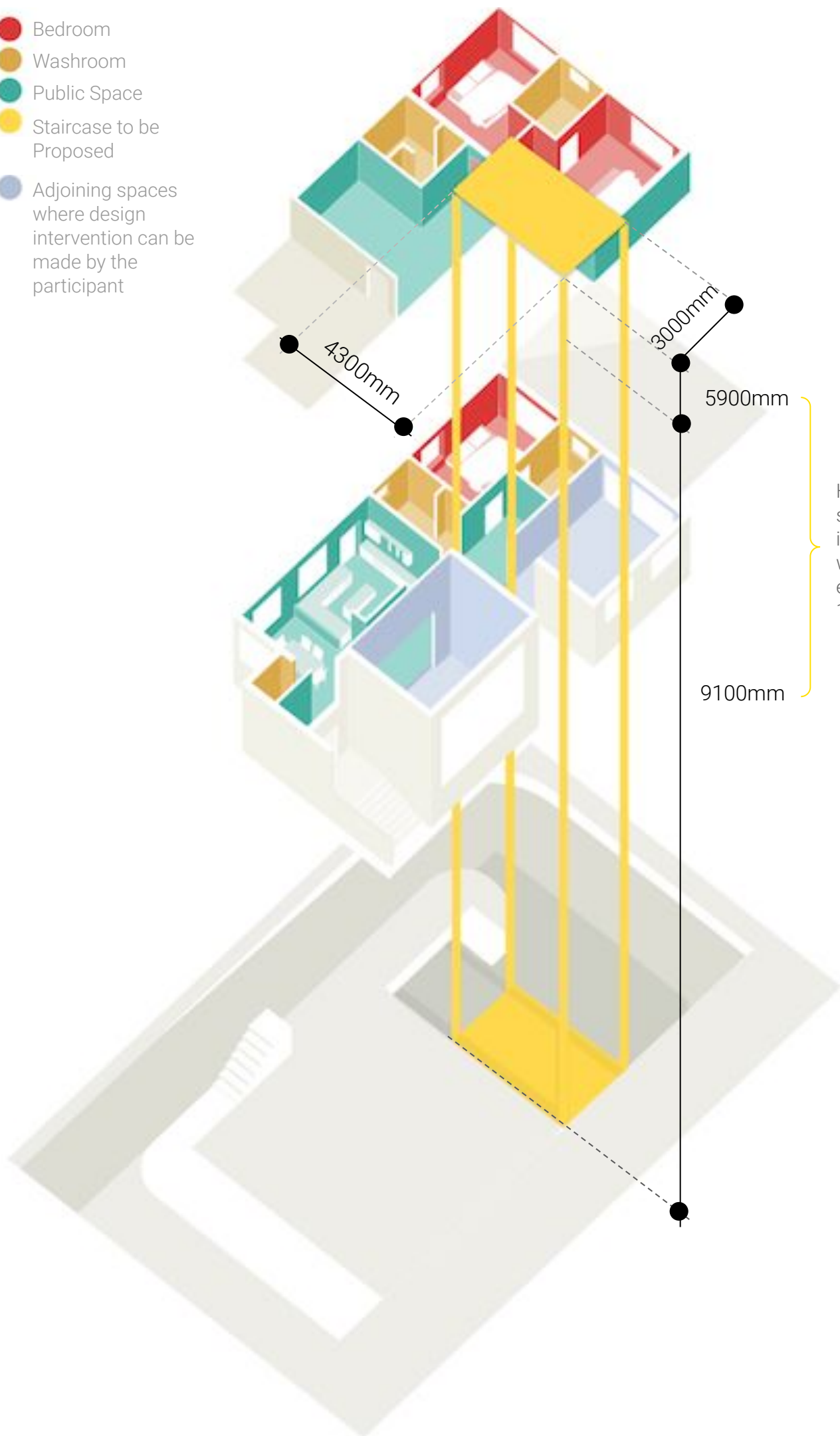
Planning

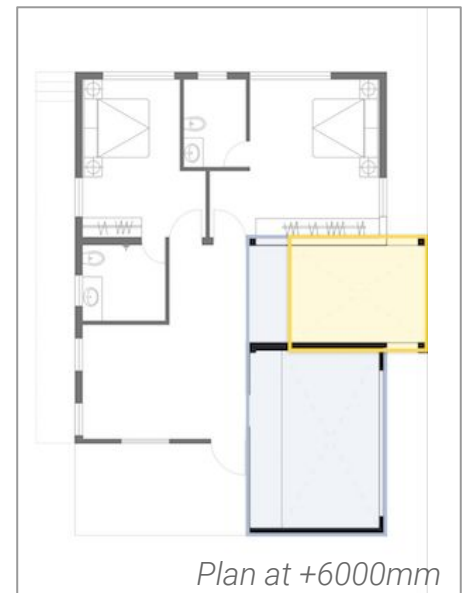
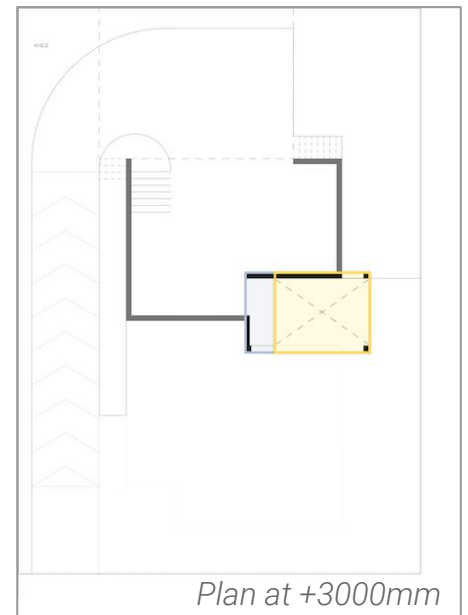
Planning of staircase and it's
immediate surrounding if any
intervention needed

Objectives

The following objectives can be a point of beginning to conceive this design. Participants can assume their own context and function but need to plan out their intervention inside the residence (design given) while responding to the client profile.

- Bedroom
- Washroom
- Public Space
- Staircase to be Proposed
- Adjoining spaces where design intervention can be made by the participant





 Site for staircase design. Functional Intervention (internal layout of room) can be made in adjoining spaces

Img 6: Floor plans of the residence at different levels marking site for intervention

Site Plan

The design and function of immediate rooms can be altered if necessary. There are no restrictions (material, lighting, form - all depends on the participants design), except the following standards need to be taken into account. Riser Height 150mm, Minimum Width: 250mm. If you have more questions for clients in regards with the brief, you can contact us on contact@uni.xyz

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Cover image

A graphically well composed 3D view of your design outcome.

The cover image is different from the boards. The Board distribution is indicative, students can tweak the recommendations

A

Vision

The fundamental thought behind your staircase

B

Design Principles/Objectives

Fundamental objectives you wish to achieve in your design

C

Case Studies

Preliminary study of Built (Web, Book or Onsite)

D

Site Studies / Design Concept

Site studies (If any) and the design concept

E

Design Development/Iterations

Design experimentation (Model photographs and Sketches)

F

Views / Sections / Drawings

Details in drawings, illustrations and sketches.

G

3D Views

The fundamental ideas behind your staircase.

Pre Design

About
1 Board

Studies + Concept

About **2/3 Boards**

Development + Outcomes

About
4-5 Boards

Guidelines

You have to deliver an architectural outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

- Recommended number of sheets/presentation images/boards:

5 (Five) of size [**2362px x 3544px**] or [**400mm x 600mm in 150 dpi**] in portrait digital format (**JPEG only**).

Minimum 3 (Three) & No maximum sheet limit. Each image should be less than **15MB**. (Do not submit PNG format)

Minimum requisite submission are sheets/boards + Cover image containing:

- Site plan (Compulsory)
- Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
- 3D views x 4
- Cover image / Thumbnail of size 2000px x 1000px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.
- Answering 6 FAQs #

#The FAQ's have to be answered as instructed in the FAQ document in the 'additional resources folder'.

Deadlines

Discover the competition schedule and deadlines on the competitions page or on this link - [Schedule](#).

Resources

This competition contains additional resources that contains a set of files useful to complete the competition submission. This folder is made available on your profile dashboard automatically as soon as you register.

This additional resources folder of this competition contains: Submission Format files in PSD | AI | InDD, FAQs, Sketchup Model of the site, CAD file of floor plans and Client Profile (Interview)

Rules

- + The competitions is open for **students and professionals** from all the disciplines of design.
- + The team limit for this competition is **4 members maximum per team**.
- + You can register more than one team but they have to be registered separately.
- + Ensure that the final sheets submitted **do not include your name or any other mark of identification**. Your submission is linked to your user account which stands as your identification.
- + This is a design **ideas challenge only**. There is no built commission/realization associated with the problem.
- + In case of publication in yearbook we will reach out separately for selected entries.

Pro-Tips

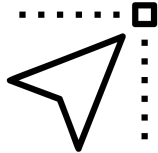
- + Use exploded views to discuss multi levelled conceptual models better.
- + Mention sheet number on corner of every sheet.
- + Plagiarism of any idea / form / design / image will be disqualified with a notice.
- + All the sheets or images will be viewed on a digital device. **e.g.** Laptop screen or projector. Uploaded sheets or images will not be physically printed for evaluation. The submission hence should be prepared for digital viewing only.
- + Submit JPEG images only. (PNG will not function)



Awards

Grants of up to a total of **7,000\$** can be won on this challenge. Learn more about the full conditions on the competition page [here](https://uni.xyz/competitions).

The entries will be judged by an international jury of the competition on the following criteria:



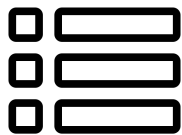
Presentation

The fundamental to a good entry is a good presentation.



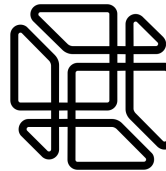
Concept/Idea

Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.



Spaces/Programme

How the spaces are calculated and ordered.



Design Outcome

The final architectural outcome of the solution.

Judging Criteria

The judging panel can also add other criteria based on their internal discussions - which will be in line with the problem statement. Participants are advised to fulfil above given criteria first in their design.

About

Classroom ™ Competitions

Classroom Competitions serves as a part of UNI in the realm of **learning and portfolio building oriented design exercises**. It intends to give opportunity to young students to explore their design skills in refreshing problems similar to their curriculum. It aims to bring in challenges based on fundamentals of design education. Classroom Competitions embarks on the idea of creating fundamental design challenges to enhance the learning experience and education. It is a research initiative dedicated to providing opportunities for students of design schools from all domains to explore the ideas that go beyond the restrictions of usual architectural discourse.

Queries: support@uni.xyz

Discover other competitions: <https://competitions.uni.xyz>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unixyzglobal/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uni.xyz/>

Discover FAQ's about this competition on our help forum here: <https://help.uni.xyz/>

The logo for ASCEND, featuring a stylized staircase icon to the left of the word "ASCEND" in a bold, sans-serif font.

A Student Design Competition

More than a means of transit

Available on:

Institutional **Access**TM

<https://uni.xyz>