

ATTIC STAIRS

Finding the right staircase for an attic conversion is fundamental in both an aesthetic and a practical sense. The aim should be a continuation of the existing architectural style of the house.



✓ An alternating-tread staircase, such as this one by architects Hackett Holland, is a useful solution for houses with a limited space - rising at twice the gradient, such a staircase occupies only half the area of a conventional stair. Try Stair Plan (www.stairplan.com) for a range of similar versions - from a flatpack starting at £150 to a bespoke service.



This wooden staircase leading to the mezzanine floor in the home of antiques dealer and designer Boris Vervoordt has a simple, rustic elegance.

Design tip Johnny Holland, architect, Hackett Holland

'When extending into the attic of a traditional Victorian town house, a good rule of thumb is to follow the path of the existing staircase. Asking a joinery company simply to copy what is already there is much less expensive than you would imagine, and also insures the house retains a feeling of flow and cohesion. If possible, always add a skylight at the top of the stairs.'



↓ Cantilevered treads, such as those used in this design by Alex Michaelis of Michaelis Boyd Associates, appear to float up the wall and won't dominate the space.



↙ In the Cumbrian barn conversion of *House & Garden* editor, Susan Crewe, a bespoke wall-mounted oak ladder - often mistaken for a piece of art - allows stylish access to the storage space above.

Useful contacts

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