



steel work

Design: Carolyn Smith, Collective Architecture

Architect's statement: The staircase is an intrinsic part of the very core of this house. The stairwell acts as a lightwell and ventilation stack as well as the circulation hub and entry to the house.

Lack of available space around the stair and the desire for a feeling of enhanced lightness and airiness were the reasons behind the stair being designed and detailed in a very lightweight manner. Open treads of solid jarrah span between the zinc arc-sprayed steel stringers. The balustrade design brings the exterior detailing of the house to the interior with the use of stainless steel rigging wire, which is embedded and tensioned to form the vertical balusters between the zinc arc-sprayed steel frame. A solid jarrah oval-shaped handrail ties the materials together to provide a smooth, reassuring touch.

The openness and lightweight detailing of the stair enhances one's general awareness of the dynamics of movement between spaces, this idea being an important feature of the overall design of the house. ♦♦

