

The Structural Stair

The monumental staircase in the Château of Versailles which was built in the 1670 shows a completely new ideology of staircases. The Renaissance Architecture used a staircase just as a tool to move between two floors, but it never had the importance as it is shown in Versailles. The escalier des Ambassadeurs identifies a new feeling for a staircase. It becomes like a part of the entire building; it appears as if the stair is a part of the wall and it would fuse with it. Charles Le Brun understood this ideology and tried to decorate the wall and the stair, so it merges together, so it seems to be one object wall and stair.

Furthermore, the stair replaces the importance of the columns in the palace. Of course, columns are still convenient and very important. But with the concentration on to the stair it also gets the same structural attention. As a result, the stair pulls through many floors and it seems as it would get to a new monumental column.

In addition to the structure Charles Le Brun underlined the significance of the staircases with his beautiful frescos, which embodied the achievements of King Louis 14.

This feeling of being overwhelmed by this incredible staircase is brought to the top by the small and narrow vestibules which are located directly in front of the first steps. Those Vestibules are small and dark and very narrow. The bright big and beautifully decorated staircase by Le Brun gets with this vestibule sort of a retarding moment before you come to the catharsis with the phenomenal staircase. This isn't something completely new, it's a well-known way to show a magnificence of an object.

This will of having a superior monumental staircase is not only based on the characteristic of the Barock Architecture it's also a desire of being superior and better than the Italian Culture, which is seen as competing power. At this time the religion and balance of forces wasn't quite elaborated between France and the Roman Empire. To underline the equality of the French Monarchy and the Roman Culture the Staircase is decorated with French Marble to demonstrate their independence.

So last but not least we can say that Charles Le Brun wanted to get the King with his art to a superior position and show of his achievements with this incredible structure.

With this staircase Le Brun managed to get the staircases to a European idol and the model is getting replicated many times.

Concept: Aspects of the structural stair

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