03
Thomas Laurens B.V.

Private Apartment
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Client
Private client

Project team
???

Structural engineer
???

Main contractor
Boll Steelworks

The combination of a forward-thinking client and an adventurous designer can often produce an exciting combination and inspired final result. In this case, the owner commissioned designer Thomas Laurens to redesign and refurbish the interior of a canal-side apartment in Amsterdam. As a focal point for the living and kitchen area and a visual link between levels, Laurens has produced an imaginative modern staircase, which combines a sweeping stainless steel stringer with an enclosing linear balustrade.

Laurens bespoke design tested the materials and the manufacturer's abilities to produce the asymmetrical staircase. The supporting stringer, which flows beneath the treads, twists irregularly and separates into two sections. Its undulating form stretches the structural properties of the stainless steel to its limit. The free-form shape of the stringer meant that the fabrication of this item required a more sculptural approach rather than a typical steelwork manufacturing process.

Unusually, the stair is designed to look different depending on which floor you are on. When seen from the lower level, the flowing lines of the stringer emerge, twisting upward, revealing a curvaceous design. When viewed from the upper level, the combination of straight treads and straight balustrade panels which extend downwards into the living room present a completely linear design. Cleverly, the staircase varies with your viewpoint from curve to quadrilateral making for an eye-catching contrast. The changing perspective of the staircase and redesigned interior was praised by the client, explains Lauren: 'My client on this project told me that he sits in different places in the house and loves the way that several of the key pieces look different from every angle'.


1


2

1 The personality of this stair changes from every viewpoint. Here, the flamboyant split stringer anchors the stair to the floor.

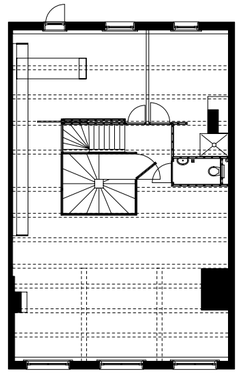
2 The angular balustrade encloses the stairs, forming an imaginary cube which marks the staircases boundary within the room.

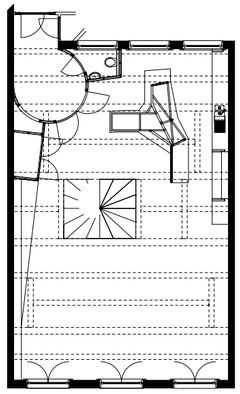
3 Solid stainless steel tubes provide supporting links between the stainless steel stringer and the timber treads.

4 The floating angle balustrade requires steel tension rods to aid stability. The rods fortunately enhance the visual combination of the linear and curved arrangement.


3


4





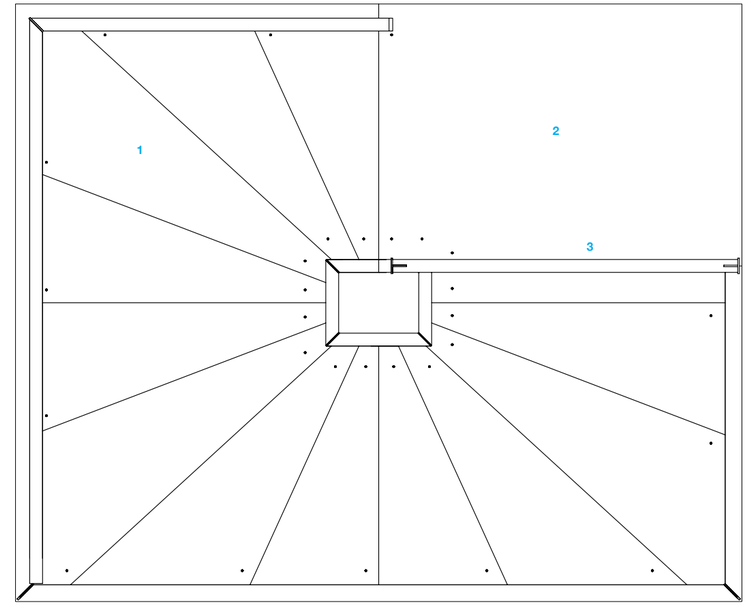
0 5m
0 15ft

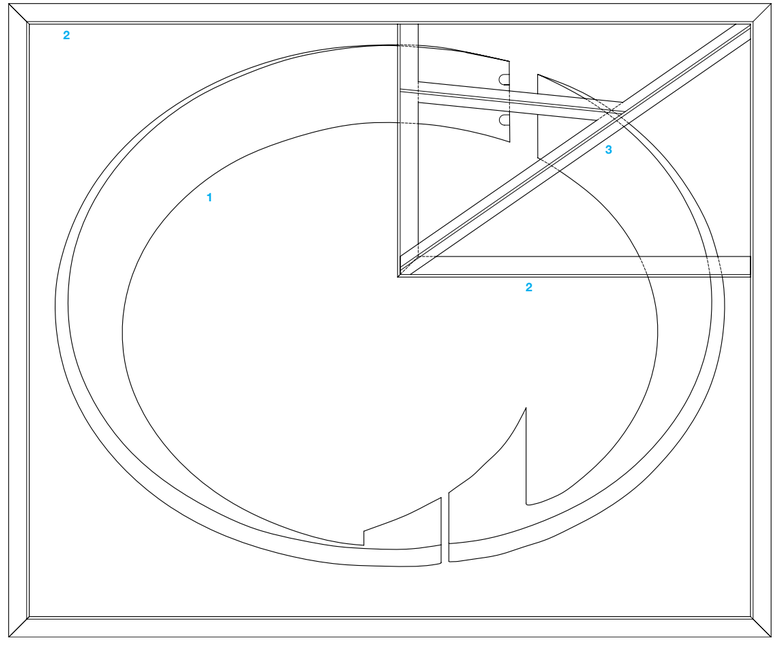
03.01
Upper level plan
1:200

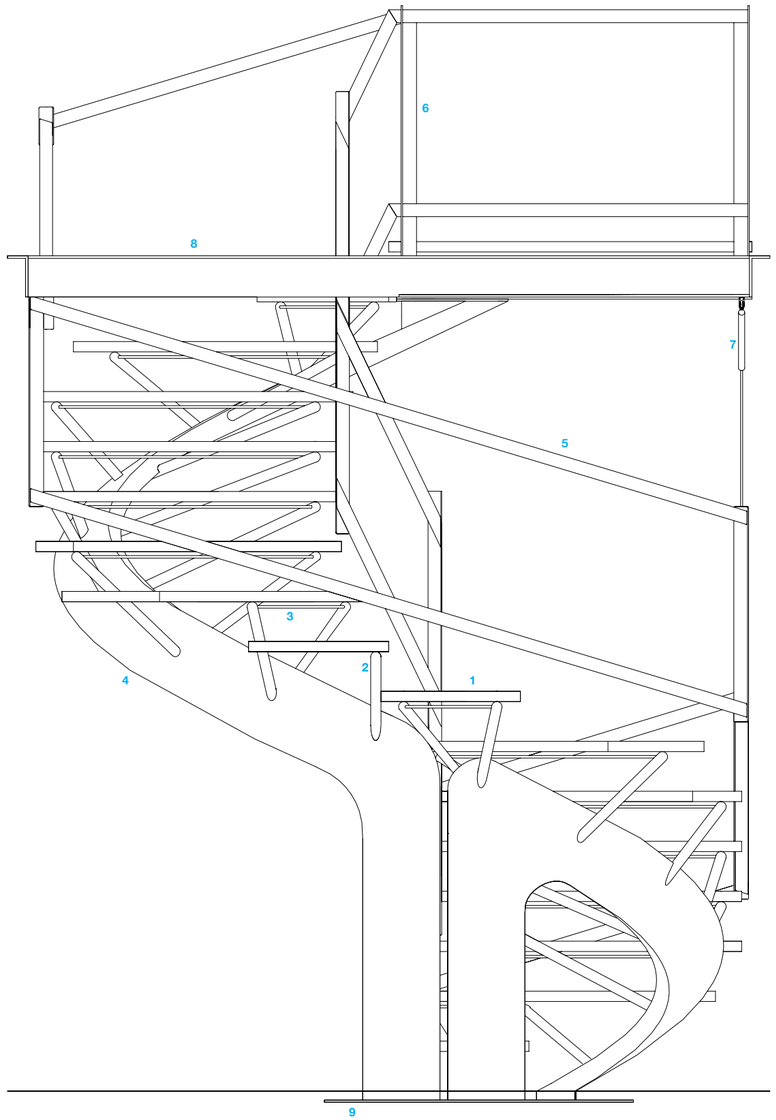
03.02
Lower level plan
1:200

03.03
Stair plan
1:20
1 40mm (1½in.) solid European oak treads
2 Landing
3 50mm (2in.) stainless steel balustrade framework

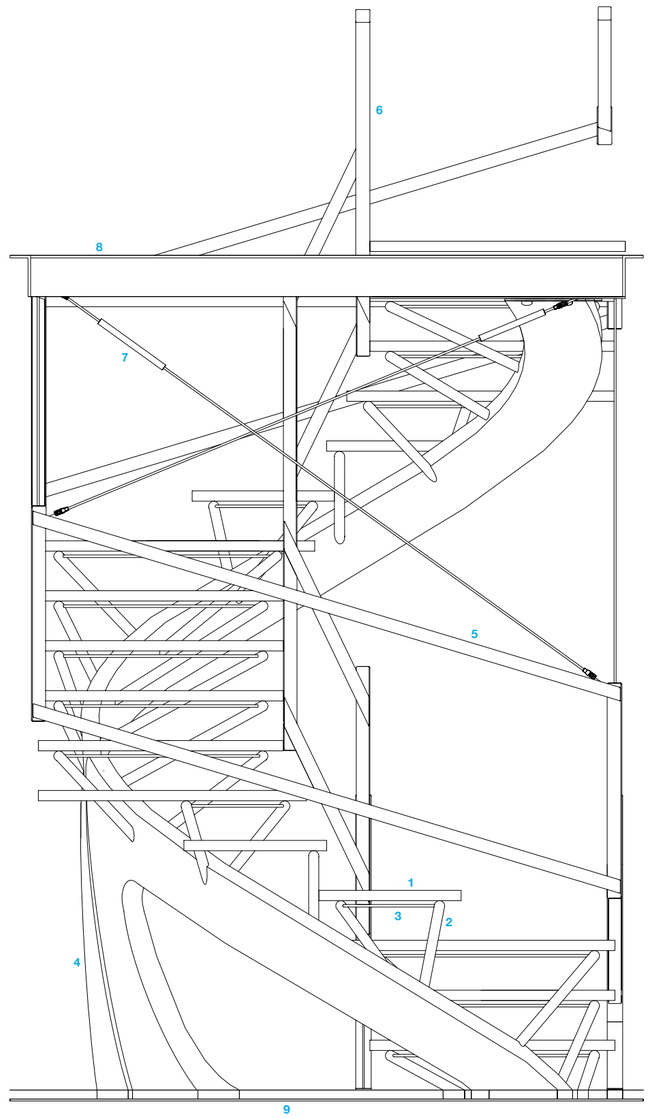
03.04
Stair structure plan
1:20
1 70mm (2¾in.) thick sculptural stainless steel stringer
2 160x80x10mm (6¼x3x⅜in.) stainless steel angle
3 80x80x6mm (3x3x¼in.) mild steel T-section







03.05
Elevation A
1:20
1 40mm (1½in.) solid European oak treads
2 40mm (1½in.) diameter stainless steel tread support rods
3 10mm (⅜in.) diameter stainless steel link rod
4 70mm (2¾in.) thick sculptural stainless steel stringer
5 50mm (2in.) stainless steel balustrade framework
6 60x50 (2⅜x2in.) stainless steel tee section
7 8mm (5/16in.) diameter stainless steel tension rods
8 160x80x10mm (6¼x3x13/16in.) stainless steel angle
9 8mm (5/16in.) thick mild steel baseplate



03.06
Elevation B
1:20
1 40mm (1½in.) solid European oak treads
2 40mm (1½in.) diameter stainless steel tread support rods
3 10mm (⅜in.) diameter stainless steel link rod
4 70mm (2¾in.) thick sculptural stainless steel stringer
5 50mm (2in.) stainless steel balustrade framework
6 60x50mm (2⅜x2in.) stainless steel T-section
7 8mm (5/16in.) diameter stainless steel tension rods
8 160x80x10mm (6¼x3x13/16in.) stainless steel angle
9 8mm (5/16in.) thick mild steel baseplate