

Stepped paths, staircases and ramps

On steep ground paths become staircases or ramps. Ramps should be fully integrated in designs to enable full access to all. Steep staircases can be barriers to access but equally can be exciting landscape experiences, depending on context. Landings within staircases are always desirable (even in short ones, and vital in long staircases) where space allows. Landings and staircases are often threshold spaces (see the section on Topographic thresholds, p. 178), which enable transition as well as sitting, resting and viewing.