

Balconies and Fire Escapes

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The History of Balconies

- Balconies are platforms coming out of a wall of a building. Balconies have been used for many years for many reasons such as relaxing or taking in a view. In fact, some of the balconies you see before you today were inspired by the balconies used in older times.
- Balconies date back to Ancient Greece, more than 2000 years ago. The Greeks used balconies to address functional needs.
- By the early 19th century, iron railings were popular in places in England such as London, Bath, and Cheltenham.
- The Edwardians (in 1901-1910 in the United Kingdom) increased the size of balconies. They especially enjoyed making larger balconies on larger houses.
- Over the years, balcony styles developed to reflect changes in the structure of the design, construction, and building materials. Technological advances are increasing the boundaries of balcony design. The skillfulness makes balconies suitable for many different new projects. Now balconies serve many purposes to bring the outdoors closer. These include a garden, place to eat or drink or relax, place to observe the objects below and the views.

The History of Fire Escapes

Fire escapes are special kinds of emergency exits. They are usually mounted on the outside of a building but are occasionally inside and apart from the main areas of the building. Fire escapes provide a method of escape in an emergency where indoor stairs are inaccessible. Fire escapes are mostly found on apartment buildings.

Fire escapes were very important to fire safety but due to advanced fire fighting equipment they aren't as common.

In 1784, Daniel Maseres of England invented a fire escape which would allow anyone to get to the street with no injury. In 1836, Abraham Wivell created an improved version that was portable. And then in 1998 on November 8th, Henry Vieregg created the first united states fire escape on grand island, Nebraska.









GRIFFIN HOUSE

Small plaque on the wall, partially obscured by the railing.







Conclusion

- So the next time you are walking down the street, notice the beautiful balconies and fire escapes. Maybe you will see them in a different way. Many people don't notice the unique balconies and fire escapes. You can be the start.