

Work in software (blender)

Spiral staircase

I wanted a spiral staircase, and the main problem I had neglected while sketching is that I would require a 'landing' area, so that you can walk out onto the floor easily. This meant that I couldn't have a single spiral staircase as a single array going upwards, but rather I would need one for each floor, and the same.

Here I did some maths for how many steps, of what height, and the diameter etc:

$$\text{height of one floor} = 2.7\text{m} + 0.3\text{m}$$

$$= 3000\text{mm}$$

$$\text{minimum clear tread} = 600\text{mm}$$

$$\text{height of a step} = 200\text{mm}$$

$$\text{number of steps} = \frac{3000}{200}$$

$$= 15$$

$$\text{usable stair section} = \frac{360}{2}$$

$$= 180$$

$$\text{angle of rotation / step} = \frac{180}{15}$$

$$= 12 \text{ degrees per step}$$

So in blender I made a circle of diameter 1400mm with 30 vertices (15×2) to make 15 steps per flight, then added an empty at the centre which I spun 12 degrees clockwise, and made the array modifier use object offset of said empty and a constant offset of 0.3m on the Z axis.

Then since each flight of stairs goes round half the circle, I made a boolean cutter object that is a semicircle to cut a hole in the floor/ceiling to make way for these stairs, which I placed in a corner of the house.

This also solves the problem of the stairs being dangerous as there was previously no landing, meaning someone could walk off into the abyss, falling ~6 meters (ouch).

The last part was to make the stairs a little nicer by adding a handrail and some more decorations, so I just bevelled the edges a bit, used the same array modifier on the post for the handrail, and added a curve which I rounded off for the actual rail.