

Saracen vault staircase



Rocamat Home Office - Ile Saint Denis.

Saracen vault staircase, pronounced "sarrasine"

The saracen vault staircase consists of a double arch band (one vault is called the bottom vault and the other is the distribution vault) built using hollow bricks bound in plaster, and a flooring consisting of natural stone treads and risers.

A lining of stepped hollow bricks, bound in plaster is constructed between the vault and these flooring elements.

The treads and risers must be embedded to a depth of 7 to 10 cm in the walls of the stairwell and for this reason, this type of staircase should

only be envisaged if the walls are thick enough to allow embedding and if there are no obstacles such as chimney flues, for example.

Generally speaking, an initial series of prefabricated steps and risers is installed, then the double arch band is built with the steps being laid as the construction advances.

Another method consists in first building the vault and to then lay the steps and risers on the outer face.

The technique used to construct this type of staircase is relatively simple. However, the work should only be carried out by specialised marble masons.