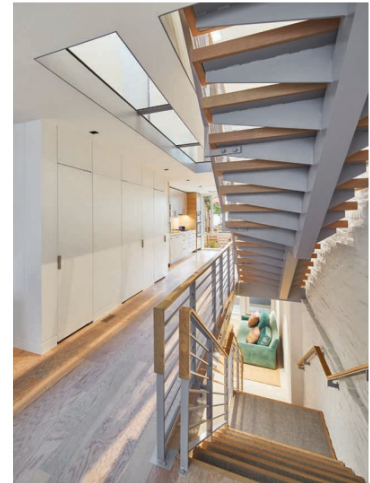




Staircase with glass-floored walkway.

Photos for this project © Anice Hoachlander



Staircase.



New rear façade.

### Washingtonian Award in Distinctive Residential Design

## Clear View in Foggy Bottom

Washington, DC

### Bonstra | Haresign ARCHITECTS

**Interior Designer:** M.S. Vicas Interiors

**Structural Engineer:** Structura, Inc.

**General Contractor:** ThinkMakeBuild

This 1885 row house, a scant 12 feet wide, once belonged to the client's parents, and was now ready for more light, fewer walls, and a floor plan that turned its width into an asset.

**Bonstra | Haresign ARCHITECTS** responded with a design that capitalizes on the long, narrow footprint and introduces a sculptural open stair awash in natural light as its central organizing element. The custom steel-and-wood stair with a single asymmetrical stringer is set slightly away from the white brick wall, further emphasizing its floating quality. Overhead,

three linear skylights running along the center of the roof pull natural light down into all three floors of the house thanks to the open stair and glass floor panels in the hall. "With a couple of fairly simple moves," said one juror, "the design allows light to flow all the way through the building and makes it feel much more spacious."

While the street façade of the house was left intact to satisfy preservation requirements, the contemporary indoor-outdoor connection is made at the heavily glazed rear façade where the kitchen/dining space opens to a bluestone patio surrounded by cedar fencing. The lower-level reading room and art space also share easy access to the patio. Lightly stained oak flooring along with the natural wood stair treads, built-in bookcases, and kitchen cabinets infuse the spare interior with an organic warmth.

The skylights are triple insulated, and automated retractable shades reduce heat gain at midday. The floor-to-ceiling windows on the northern exposure bring in diffused light, and high-efficiency appliances and low-flow plumbing are used throughout. 🏡