Innovation in balustrades and handrails

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Summary of Requirements

The BA approach;

- 1. A continuous handrail should be provided to both sides of a stair flight, ramp and all stair and ramp landings.
- 2. Loadings should comply with the table set out in BS 6180:2011, or BS 6399
- 3. For buildings where likely users include children under 5 years of age, regulations state that there should not be gaps in balustrades which permit a sphere of 100mm to pass through (this does not apply to the triangle formed by the tread and riser, except in dwellings and flats).
- 4. Balustrade guarding should be designed in such a way to discourage young children from climbing it.
- 5. The centreline of all handrails should be between 900mm and 975mm above the stair or ramp pitch line. For balustrades guarding landing areas and balconies the barrier should be a minimum of 1100mm above FFL, while centreline of the handrail should be between 900mm and 1100mm above Finished Floor Level (FFL).
- 6. Handrails should extend a minimum of 300mm beyond the top and bottom riser of a flight of stairs or end of ramp providing it doesn't project into an access route. It can be returned around a corner if necessary.
- 7. A clear minimum gap of between 50mm and 75mm should be provided between the handrail and adjacent wall.
- 8. All handrails should be supported with fixings that do not obstruct the passage of hands.
- 9. A circular handrail should have a diameter of at least 40mm but not greater than 50mm.
- 10. For buildings designed specifically for children, a second handrail is required at 600mm above FFL on ramp or pitch line.
- 11. Handrails should return towards the floor to prevent the snagging of clothes
- 12. Stainless steel meets the requirements of BS8300:2009+A1:2010 for being a suitable material, meeting the cold or hot to touch requirements whilst also being a durable & low maintenance material

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