Timber decay: In common with all timber elements in a building, staircases can suffer from decay caused by either rot or insect attack when conditions are both warm and damp. Conservation of the material structure is to be carried out, with no attempt being made to integrate or complete the image (restoration). Within these parameters, this approach can also include the introduction within the image, in portions lost or badly damaged, of an intervention which is in itself blank and of indeterminate colour, what is termed a “neutral” restoration (see, for instance, Fig. 9. Single words, like pigments, change hue depending on their context and the light in which they are seen, and such words I have also given in their original as well as in English. I hope it is indicative of the present climate that the present volume by Alessandro Conti, which is the only comprehensive attempt to chart the history of restoration in any, Staircases: History, Repair and Conservation has been added to your Cart. Add to Cart. Buy Now. It is difficult to fault Staircases, the editors having succeeded in producing an authoritative yet accessible book on the subject that combines ample detail with interesting historical narrative” - Amy Williamson, Centre for Applied Archaeology, UCL, Journal of Architectural Conservation.