Stairs to Nowhere: University House

Connie Xie | cxie38@gatech.edu | Industrial Design

The Problem.

There exists a staircase for University House in Midtown that seemingly opens up to walkers from all directions, featuring a portion that opens up to users along the right side of the stairs. The stairs have three handrails that lead up to the UH apartments: one along the left wall and two dividing the staircase into three parts. These handrails each continue straight up the staircase with no change in direction. Because the staircase has the additional right stairs, the right-most of these dividing handrails cuts right into this area, creating a closed-off corner at the top of the steps. Because of this, users who proceed up the stairs by the side portion will only be impeded by the handrail that disables them from continuing up the stairs, forcing the user back down only to climb up through the other two staircase parts.
The Solution.

The rightmost handrail can be removed or placed along the wall instead, similar to the left wall. The middle handrail can either stay where it is, move to right more in order to make the division more equal on both sides, or completely removed to free up walking space.