

Escalators in Toledo

To relieve traffic congestion in the old city of Toledo, a new car park with space for 400 cars was built at the bottom of the hill. An escalator system was designed to bridge the 36-metre height difference up to the town centre. The resulting, very sculptured design is divided into six sections, to fit the topography. From the car park, a passageway leads underneath the old town walls to the base of the escalators. On the slope side the escalators are supported by a folded retaining wall that also cantilevers out to form a roof over the heads of the users. The valley side is open, offering an unimpeded view of the surrounding countryside.

The individual sections of the system consist of pairs of escalators clad with matt polished stainless steel – an exciting contrast to the rough, exposed concrete and the landscape.



The escalator system is divided into six parts, following the topography of the hill. It bridges 36 metres in height.

Client: City of Toledo, Spain
Architects: José Antonio Martínez Lapeña,
Elías Torres Tur, Barcelona, Spain
Photos: David Cardelús, Barcelona, Spain

