



OUTSIDE STAIRS TO FLAT ROOF.

generally the women of the household, to behold street life without themselves being seen. "The mother of Sisera looked out at a window, and cried through the lattice, Why is his chariot so long in coming? why tarry the wheels of his chariots?" Judges v. 28. Sometimes the women's apartments surround an inner court in which they are still more jealously secluded.

The upper rooms are called the "summer-house," and the lower rooms the "winter-house." In the latter there is often a fireplace in the wall. It was here that King Jehoiakim was sitting, "and there

was a fire on the hearth burning before him," when the roll of Jeremiah was brought him. After listening to the reading of part of this the king cut it with his "penknife," that is, the sheath-knife which he carried in his girdle, and cast it into the fire. Jer. xxxvi. 22.

On the inner court the greatest wealth of decoration is lavished. The pavement is often of Mosaic or variegated marble. The pillared arches or colonnades around are beautifully carved and painted in brilliant colours. Off this court are often reception chambers, with exquisite marble floor, walls, and some-