

# Filling a City with Moving Walkways: Is This a Good Idea?

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[HTTP://WWW.THEATLANTICCITIES.COM/COMMUTE/2012/07/FILLING-CITY-MOVING-WALKWAYS-GOOD-IDEA/2488/](http://www.theatlanticcities.com/commute/2012/07/filling-city-moving-walkways-good-idea/2488/)



Image courtesy of [Roberto Ercilla Arquitectura](#)

“Progress never stops”

<p>a platform that moves</p> <p>laziness</p> <p>1 done something different 2 fancy, good-looking using a mechanism</p> <p>designer of buildings</p> <p>slopes</p> <p>regional 1 government in control of an area 2 put in, set up a rotating belt on which to walk</p> <p>sections 1 nicely 2 to do with Europe road paved with small stones armed (with), installed characteristic, function 1 a kind of dance 2 composition, structure 3 use, purpose strong, hard</p>	<p><b>1</b> <b>Moving walkways</b> are typically found in airports and shopping malls, places where tiredness and <b>sloth</b> mix with the urgent need to get somewhere. But one city in Spain has</p> <p><b>5</b> <b>broken out of the box</b> with a <i>snazzy</i> <i>mechanical</i> walkway running right through the middle of town.</p> <p>This is <b>architect</b> Roberto Ercilla's "Mechanical <b>Ramps</b>" in Vitoria-Gasteiz,</p> <p><b>10</b> a city of about 236,000 situated near the northeast coastline of Spain. The <i>local</i> <b>council</b> <u>installed</u> the giant <u>treadmill</u> in 2007 at a cost of about €3.7 million. The autowalk is split into seven</p> <p><b>15</b> <b>segments</b> that run more or less in a straight line up and down <i>charmingly</i> <b>European</b> but heel-bustingly steep <b>cobblestone roads</b>. Ercilla has <u>equipped</u> the walkalator with a few interesting <b>features</b> in the ages-old</p> <p><b>20</b> <b>ballet of form vs. function</b>. It's made from a <i>tough</i> kind of glass, obviously, so folks riding inside get the full effect of Vitoria's architecture and don't feel like they're</p>	<p><u>movement</u>, <u>move</u>, <u>moved</u>, <i>movingly</i></p> <p><i>slothfully</i></p> <p><u>break</u>, <u>break</u>, <i>broken</i></p> <p><b>mechanic</b>, <u>mechanize</u>, <i>mechanistically</i></p> <p><b>architecture</b>, <i>architecturally</i></p> <p><i>local</i>, <i>locality</i>, <u>localize</u>, <i>locally</i></p> <p><b>councilor</b>-<u>installation</u>, <u>installment</u>, <u>tread</u></p> <p><u>segmented</u> <b>charm</b> +, <u>charm</u>, <i>charmingly</i> <b>European</b>, <b>Europe</b>, <b>Euro</b></p> <p><u>equipment</u>, <i>well-equipped</i></p> <p><u>feature</u></p> <p><b>ballet-dancer</b> - <u>formation</u>, <u>format</u>, <i>formed</i> - <u>functionality</u> <u>toughen up</u></p>
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<p>air flow</p> <p>1 made of, consisting of 2 entry, entrance (the frame) balance, in parallel</p> <p>1 form 2 turning</p> <p>strange, unusual</p> <p><i>The name of a movie</i></p> <p>1 moving walkway 2 appreciated</p> <p>people who live in a place</p> <p>rub and make a sound, creak</p> <p>1 going up 2 difficult, burdensome</p> <p>escape, giving up</p> <p>muscles between feet and knees</p> <p>1 gliding, flowing 2 without effort</p> <p>people walking on the sidewalk</p>	<p>25 traveling in a shoebox. Gaps in the glass panes allow for <b>ventilation</b>, while gaps between the walkway segments let people get valuable "outdoors time" between their assisted lifts.</p> <p>The metal frame of the people mover is</p> <p>30 <u>composed of</u> hundreds of <b>porticoes</b> that are out of <b>alignment</b> with each other, creating a <b>structure</b> like a <u>twisting</u> snake skeleton. The effect of riding through this <i>out-of-whack</i> environment might remind certain people</p> <p>35 of <i>Vertigo</i>, but it's definitely not boring.</p> <p>Vitoria's <b>travelator</b> is probably <u>cherished</u> by the older <b>residents</b> of the town, whose hip and knee joints <u>grind</u> like unoiled bearings when <u>ascending</u> these <i>troublesome</i> hills.</p> <p>40 And the benefit for people with physical disabilities is clear. As for everyone else, though, isn't using this thing a bit of a <b>cop-out</b>? I imagine <b>calf muscles</b> turning to Jell-O after years of <u>coasting</u> <i>effortlessly</i> up and</p> <p>45 down the city's rugged landscape.</p> <p>Sure, <b>pedestrians</b> might choose to burn some</p>	<p><u>vent</u>, <u>ventilate</u></p> <p><b>composition</b>, <u>composer</u>, <u>compose</u>, <u>composedly</u> <u>align</u>, <u>aligned</u> <u>structure</u>, <u>structurally</u> <u>twist</u>, <u>twister</u>, <u>twisted</u> <u>whack</u>, <u>whacky</u>, <u>whackily</u></p> <p><u>travel</u>, <u>traveler</u>, <u>travel</u></p> <p><u>reside</u>, <u>residential</u></p> <p><u>grinder</u>, <u>ground</u> + <u>ascension</u>, <u>ascendant</u> <u>trouble</u>, <u>troublingly</u></p> <p><u>muscle</u> <u>in</u>, <u>muscular</u> <u>coast</u> +, <u>effort</u>, <u>effortfully</u></p> <p><u>pedestrianize</u>, <u>pedestrian</u></p>
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<p>measures of energy in food</p> <p>1 taking big steps 2 quickly</p>	<p>50 energy by walking inside the movator. But then again, they may not. A 2009 study in the journal <i>Chaos</i> suggested that people who use moving walkways in airports tend to slow down, holding onto their precious <b>calories</b>, instead of <u>striding forth</u> <i>briskly</i> to get to the gate. People are innately lazy.</p>	<p><i>caloric</i> <b>stride</b> <i>briskness</i></p>
<p>1 slow and/or boring 2 moving steps old fashioned 1 style, look 2 unusual, different from the norm</p>	<p>55 There's also the argument that having a <i>cumbersome</i> <b>escalator system</b> jammed into historic downtown ruins the <b>Old World aesthetics</b> of Vitoria. Despite its <i>unorthodox</i> design, it still looks somewhat like somebody ripped it out of an airport. But maybe that's</p>	<p><i>cumbersomeness</i>, <u>encumber</u> <b>escalation</b>, <u>escalate</u> <b>World, Worldly</b> <i>aesthetically</i> <i>orthodoxy, orthodox</i></p>
<p>1 appear (quickly), jump up 2 very big city</p> <p>sidewalk</p>	<p>60 just because we're not used to seeing moving sidewalks in the city. As more and more of these systems <u>pop up</u> in <b>metropolises</b> throughout the world, and as pounding the <b>pavement</b> becomes a nuisance, Vitoria's</p>	<p><b>pop-up</b> (adverts), <u>pop</u> <i>metropolitan, metro, metro</i></p> <p><u>pave, pave the way to...</u></p>
<p>discovery, invention</p>	<p>65 mechanical ramps might be seen as the <b>breakthrough</b> that changed the nature of foot traffic.</p>	<p><b>break</b> <i>through</i>,</p>

Tablearning & Colour Coding Techniques invented by [Luc@peacemakerfoundation.com](mailto:Luc@peacemakerfoundation.com)

Have fun learning these words using digital flashcards. Go to [Quizlet.com](https://www.quizlet.com) & search for the '[Peacemakerfoundation.com](https://www.peacemakerfoundation.com)' class.

Q1: What do you feel about the design of the moving walkway?

Q2: Do you agree that more and more of these systems will ‘**pop up** in **metropolises** throughout the world’?

Q3: What is shown in the pictures below?

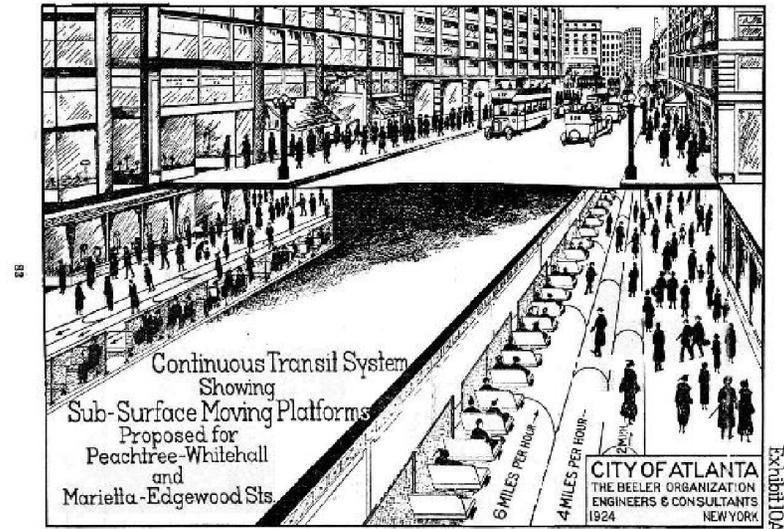
Q4: Which picture shows a different kind of transport system to the other pictures?

Q5: Which kind of solution do you prefer and why?

A



B



C



D



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