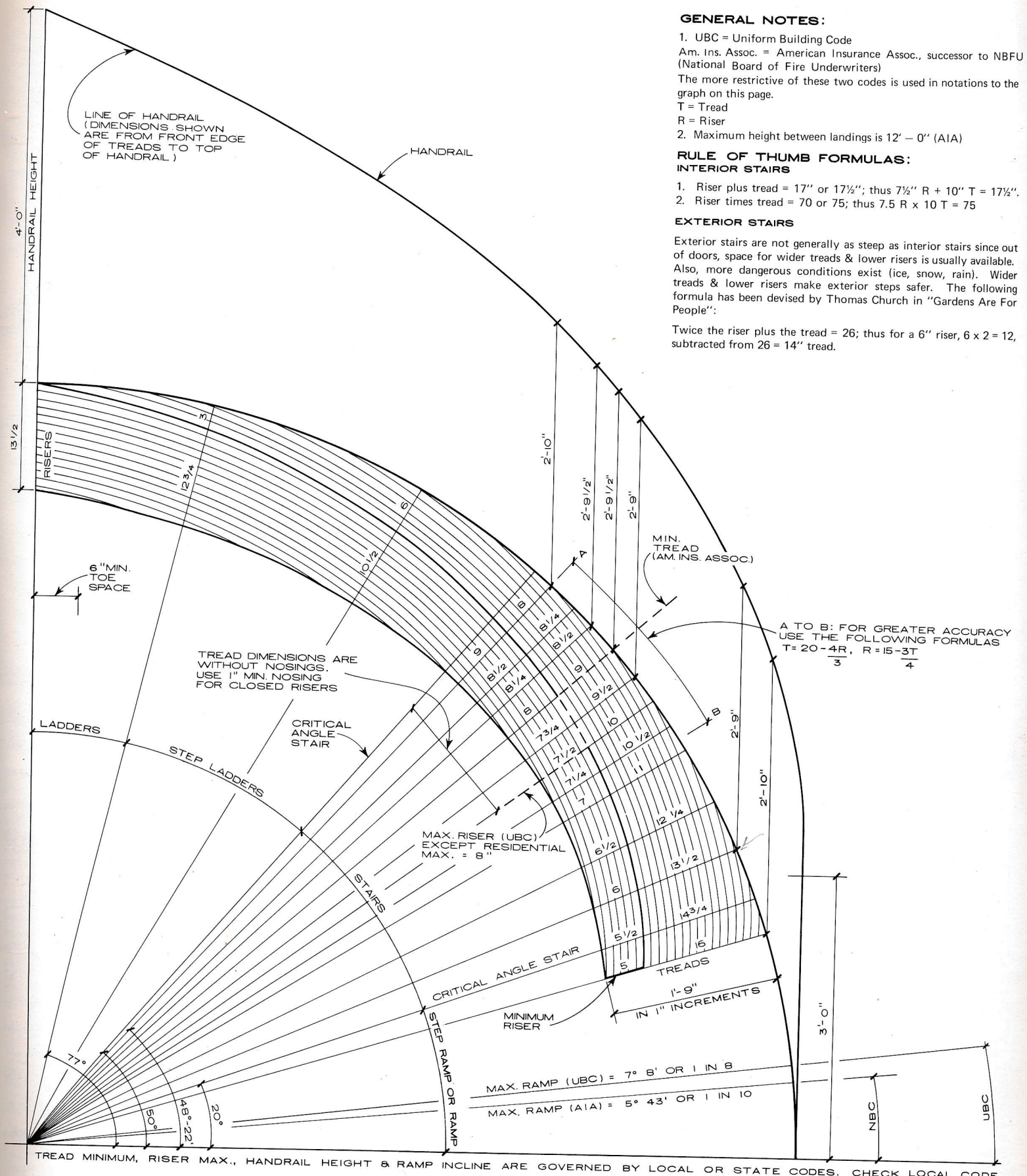

GENERAL NOTES:

1. UBC = Uniform Building Code
Am. Ins. Assoc. = American Insurance Assoc., successor to NBFU (National Board of Fire Underwriters)
The more restrictive of these two codes is used in notations to the graph on this page.
T = Tread
R = Riser
2. Maximum height between landings is 12' – 0" (AIA)

RULE OF THUMB FORMULAS:

INTERIOR STAIRS

1. Riser plus tread = 17" or 17½"; thus 7½" R + 10" T = 17½".
2. Riser times tread = 70 or 75; thus 7.5 R x 10 T = 75

EXTERIOR STAIRS

Exterior stairs are not generally as steep as interior stairs since out of doors, space for wider treads & lower risers is usually available. Also, more dangerous conditions exist (ice, snow, rain). Wider treads & lower risers make exterior steps safer. The following formula has been devised by Thomas Church in "Gardens Are For People":

Twice the riser plus the tread = 26; thus for a 6" riser, 6 x 2 = 12, subtracted from 26 = 14" tread.

TREADS AND RISERS
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

Paul Vaughan, AIA; Charleston, West Virginia