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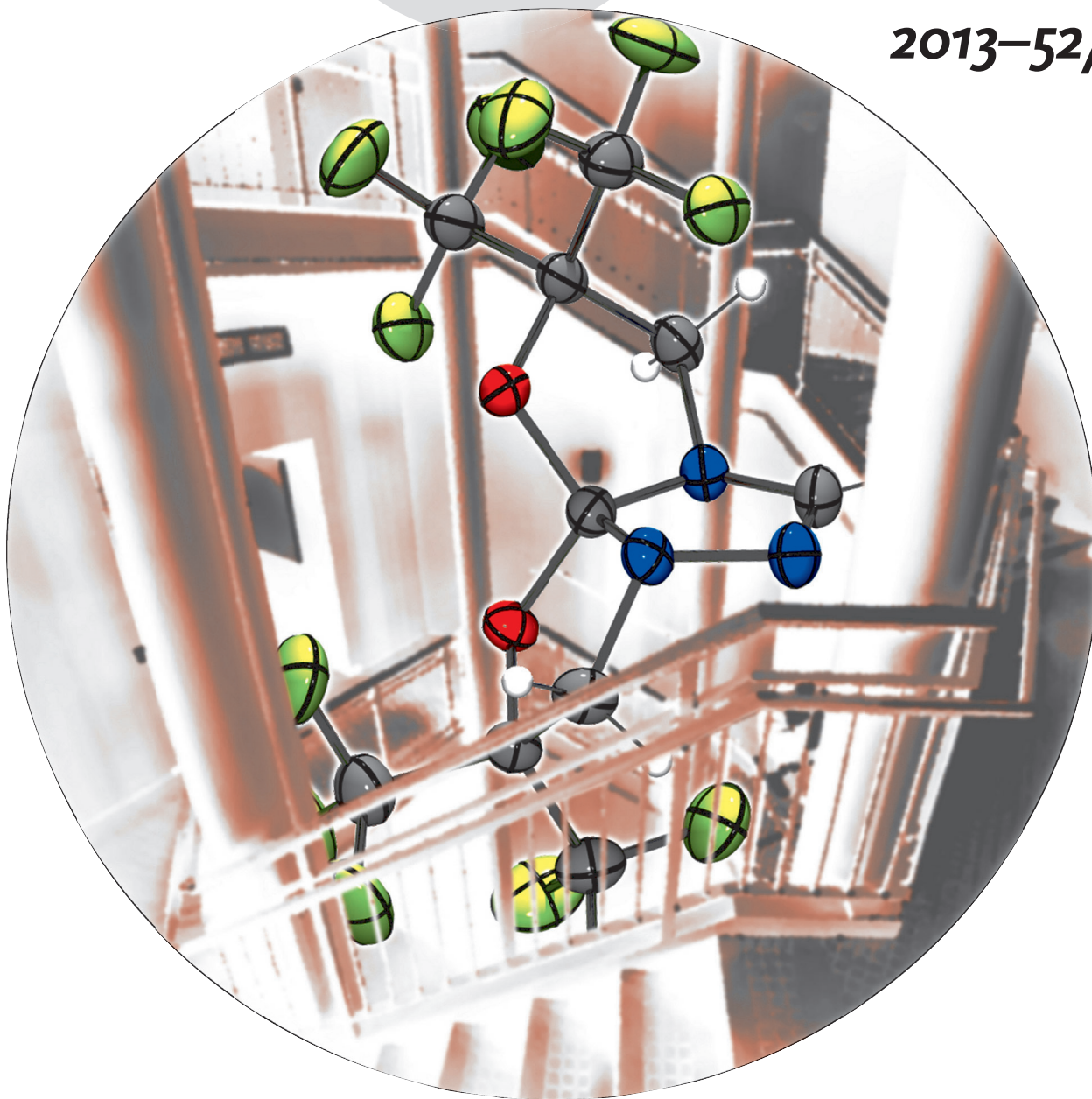
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Stable urea ketals ...

... have remained elusive because of their inherent instability and reactivity. In their Communication on page 10871 ff., A. J. Arduengo III, J. W. Runyon et al. describe the oxidation of a series of imidazolium alkoxides to produce isolable imidazolone spiroketals. The spiral nature of this novel fused-ring system is reminiscent of the spiral staircases in the Shelby Hall Chemistry Building where it was created.

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