

Manufacturer has designs on future

New manufacturing company Volarus has taken a Government message to heart by applying innovation to beat the effects of the economic downturn.

The company's parent company, Lichfield Staircase Manufacturing (LSM), based in Brownhills, is an established manufacturer and installer of architectural staircases and related products.

Owner and managing director Paul Revill set up Volarus recently to diversify into the manufacture and marketing of bespoke designs for steel balustrades, handrails and lighting, aimed at high-end interiors and exteriors for the domestic, leisure and corporate markets for UK and International markets.

The company is no stranger to the vagaries of the manufacturing sector. Paul Revill set up a fabrications business as a sole trader in 1989. He decided to diversify when that side of the business began to show signs of slowing and moved into products for architectural construction.

Now, new company Volarus will specialise in providing architects and interior designers with a specialist range of steel balustrading and handrail components that can be built to a client driven specification and with a variety of finishes.

Mr Revill said: "We already make a high quality range of steel staircases for high profile corporate clients.

"We came up with the idea of bespoke staircases to fit different styles of interiors when we realised that most modern staircases offer little choice in design.

"We felt that there was enormous scope for a stylish, decorative range of staircases that could be tailored to the client's exact requirement for the corporate and leisure sectors or even the client's own home."

Volarus has produced four new patented designs, including Arcana, which imitates bamboo, Kyphi, with a zigzag patterned finish, and Zuber and Kahana, which both introduce curved shaped stanchions. All the designs can be supplied with a variety of finishes



Raul Revill, managing director, Volarus and Steve Grice of Black Country Reinvestment Society with a sample from Volarus's steel bamboo-look Arcana range featuring hand sandblasting on to glass

and textures to suit architectural schemes.

"Volarus can be used in a huge variety of locations, including interior and exterior", said Mr Revill. "The basis of each design is steel tube, so it's perfect for many applications including walkways, conservatories and even bed frames and furniture for a completely themed look.

"We can make any shape staircase to any specification and we are very keen to work with architects and interior designers for both large contract and domestic applications. The steel finish can be retained for a contemporary look, or we can offer a tough powder coated finish in any colour to match any interior or exterior.

"We work with some of the UK's finest glass artists to create unique plate glass infills for staircases and walkways.

"The example of Tutankhamen's

mask, pictured, is sandblasted entirely by hand and took nearly 40 hours to complete. The glass infills can be customised by sandblasting, laminating or acid etching, onto clear or coloured safety glass, which can then be shaped, decorated and even personalised to any requirement.

"This is perfect for bespoke applications, for corporate branding and also for the personal touches that make a house a home - there is really no limit."

The Volarus range also includes a range of solar powered lights, including a multi-coloured effect, for outdoor use together with wall sconces for both indoor and outdoor to create a particular mood.

The company has received assistance for MAS-WM, the University of Wolverhampton's Rapid Prototyping department, and loan fund company Black Country Reinvestment Society.