EeStairs Design Competition

The evolution of the balustrade
Explore and transform the design of the vertical balustrade into an exciting repetition

Balustrades are often overlooked or considered a necessity to meet regulations. The main purpose of balustrades is to prevent you from falling but at EeStairs we like to take things further and believe that a balustrade must be both safe and attractive.

Balustrades are a superb way to give interiors form and structure and can draw the users eye to specific elements of the architecture, but limited choice in balustrades is a common obstacle to achieving the perfect look. Nowadays balustrades often fall into two groups; modestly priced steel balustrades on one hand and elegant, but expensive balustrades constructed from glass and timber on the other.

With the innovative Cells design EeStairs made a start in developing a balustrade design that is both reasonably priced and visually captivating, and now EeStairs invites you to transform the balustrade as we know it.

The EeStairs Design Competition challenges entrants in the Repeatable Balustrade Design category to develop a revolutionary, yet affordable balustrade that can be adapted to suit a range of situations. Designers must transform a simple metal strip (50mm x 5mm) into a quirky, distinctive and also repeatable balustrade design. Think outside the box to create a balustrade that orchestrates a wonderful journey and reflects the evolution of the balustrade as we know it.

Designs should be distinctive, innovative and exciting. Solving problems such as how to give a space ‘wow’ factor on a budget is an extremely important aspect of contemporary design and the best entries will offer a solution to this situation. Designs should also have low production costs and be time efficient to produce – after all it should be easy to repeat the design!

The winning designs will have a range of standardized product options, demonstrate an understanding of fast and cost effective production techniques and comply with international regulations. Designers should also aim to create a product that has little competition in the current marketplace and is not easy to replicate – this could be achieved taking advantage of innovative production techniques.

Submit your Repeatable Balustrade Design for a chance win £2,000, a whole lot of publicity for you and your design and who knows – maybe your design could become a production reality.

Requirements for the Repeatable Balustrade Design category
For this category entrants are expected to design a revolutionary but affordable balustrade. To achieve this you must think in terms of:
- Simple material use: only use a simple metal strip of 50mm x 5mm (you are free to choose the length). No addition of other materials like wood, glass, stainless steel etc.
- You are free to choose what processing techniques are used for example, sawing, drilling, welding, weaving, bending, laser cutting, waterjet cutting, pressing, connecting, powdercoating, painting, zinking etc.
- Designs should be spectacular and unique but not expensive to produce
- Designs should have low production costs, achieving through:
  - Low material cost (use a metal strip as basic material).
  - Innovative and cost-reducing production techniques or processes.
  - Time efficient production and assembly (it must be possible to produce many meters of balustrade in short period of time for large scale projects such as large residential buildings).
  - Repeatability.
- Your design should:
  - Be distinctive, innovative, ingenious, surprising and out of the ordinary.
  - Be a standard product – the only variables must be a set of existing options.
  - Have little competition. It is important that a standard product is distinctive and therefore not easy to copy. Innovative and new production technique and processes are a good way of preventing copying.
  - Comply with international regulations.
  - Be technically feasible.
  - Be beautifully presented by means of convincing images.