



Louvolite is a Stockport based British firm who are renowned designers and manufacturers in the window blind market. Their unique “Perfect Fit” System is an industry first and introduces a new way of fitting conservatory, home and office blinds.

“Perfect Fit” completely eliminates the need to drill any holes into conservatories or windows with its unique “clip” in system. Traditionally, to fit a standard set of blinds to a new conservatory, the blind fitter would need to drill 250 holes and it would take, on average 20 minutes to fit each blind. With “Perfect Fit”, this time is reduced significantly, in some cases “Perfect Fit” blinds have been fitted in as little as 20 seconds.

The framework & components design and all simulation and analysis are done using Autodesk Inventor by Andrew Greening and his design team. Andrew, Head of Design, used Mechanical Desktop when he came onboard at Louvolite, however the move was soon made into Digital Prototyping with AutoCAD Inventor.

In October 2006, Andrew was looking for a new Autodesk Solution and training provider and approached Steve Livsey at Quadra Solutions.



Andrew explains: “When Steve came in to see us we were really impressed with his knowledge and his understanding of what we were trying to achieve. Steve explained what was available through Quadra and gave us the confidence that they understood our particular requirements and long term goals for the design department, and the business as a whole. We were looking for an Autodesk reseller who could appreciate the challenges we sometimes face with design and help us to overcome these challenges.”

Andrew continues, “We have our Inventor software on subs with Quadra and we have the technical support, we also went on training recently which we found has really helped us have a deeper understanding of what the software is capable of, and will ensure we can design more efficiently and smarter as we can now use a wider range of the tools and functionality in Inventor.”

To be competitive and extend the range, Andrew is always developing new and pioneering blind systems, and at Louvolite they have developed a unique way of prioritising these developments.



“We develop our designs and ideas from what we call ‘the wish list’, which is what we hear from customers, ‘I wish there was a blind that did this...’ for example or from the feedback from the sales representatives and trade show staff. Using Inventor we can quickly develop these ideas into designs and consult with our Director, who also has a seat of Inventor, and what he likes and can see potential in we move forward with and can progress very quickly.”

Although Louvolite employ a rapid prototyping machine, which in itself is costly, by using Inventor they have decreased the need to produce so many rapid prototypes for all the different components and so have cut costs on design and manufacture significantly.

With lead times of three months on essential materials like aluminium, if the physical prototype has any flaws or defects it causes major delays, however, using Inventor’s advanced simulation and analysis tools has decreased these mistakes, ensuring all the innovative designs and ideas at Louvolite are taken to market in the shortest possible time frame.

“We find the functionality in Inventor really useable, there aren’t a lot of techy gadgets and gizmos that simply wouldn’t apply to our line of work, there are really useful tools, and the updates every year always bring something new to enhance what the software can do, and in turn what we can do. This year was a prime example of that with the developments made to plastics which has been very significant for us as we continue to develop the business.”



Louvolite are evolving rapidly and are keen to bring as many aspects of their business in house as they can. They already print and coat all their own fabrics, injection mould their own components, press their own brackets and conduct 90% of their own manufacturing. Now Louvolite are looking to employ more software to enable them to bring tooling in house. Recently launched AutoCAD Inventor Tooling, looks like it will be the ideal solution to progress this consolidation.



“Since we made the move to Quadra we haven’t really looked back, they have the support, information and advice there when we need it. We find working with them easy and they have integrated well into our design process. As we look to expand and grow, I know that we can rely on Quadra to provide the high levels of service we need.”

The next big project for Louvolite is developing their child safety systems to eliminate the risk from the cords to small children. With existing protection features in place such as 'Easybreak(tm) cord connectors' and 'Wand operated mono command', Louvolite is looking to send every blind system out for fitting with the new child safety measures included.