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## Planning your own project and would like to know more?

Here at Standley Steel, we regularly get requests to supply and fabricate steelwork for home extensions or, new builds – this is what we excel at.

A modern trend nowadays is for day room/ conservatories to be built onto the rear of an existing property along with 'open plan' living. These both would require steel beams or sections to support the walls above. These can be designed for single skin internal walls or, cavity walls. The latter usually require a pair of Universal Beams connected together in a pair.

If you are considering changing or updating your property, here are a few things to consider before proceeding with your steel enquiry or order.

The main thing is to *plan well ahead* and recruit the following tradesmen in the following order:

- Engage an *architect* to plan your idea. The chosen architect will have a vast knowledge of building design and what steel sections would be required.  
The architect plans **must** then be submitted to a *Structural Engineer*.
- The *structural engineer* will then look at the plans, carry out a site visit and calculate the steel/ timber requirements depending on load bearing above and/ or wind loadings. Quite often, the structural engineer will come up with different section sizes of steel compared to the architect's design.  
In many cases, your architect will recommend a *structural engineer* with whom they have worked together on previous projects.
- Next, recruit a reputable *builder*. The builder must be able to understand both the architect plans and the structural engineer's calculations. This is *important* for the steel fabricator as, we only manufacture steel according to structural engineer's calculations – **not** to architect's plans.
- Although both the architect and the structural engineer will have both carried out in-depth measurements, the important thing to remember is that we will **only** fabricate steel to exact measurements given. This **must** be carried out by either yourselves or your builder, **not** the architect or the structural engineer. Taking scale measurements off a plan simply will not be good enough. If the measurements provided to us turn out to be incorrect, Standley Steel cannot be responsible for the outcome. Once the steel is on site and it turns out it will not fit, quite often the steel will need to be returned to our factory for either modification or, worst case scenario, scrapped!  
This can be a very costly problem for you as well as putting your project behind schedule.
- To avoid any problems with accurate measuring, our company offers a bespoke measuring service.  
We will come out to your project and carry out all relevant measuring for you. This is at an additional charge. By having us measure for your project for steel, we can be rest assured that, the project steel will be made and delivered on time and without any problems. If, for any reason a problem arises, we will rectify this at no extra charge to yourselves. The small extra site measuring cost could pay dividends in the long run.

**To recap, the procedure is as follows:**

Engage an architect to plan your project



Recruit a Structural engineer to calculate material design/ sizes



Obtain a steelwork quote from Standley Steel. (We are able to quote from structural engineers drawings)



Engage a builder to build your dream and measure up for steel (or engage us to measure for you)



Place your order for steel or, engage your builder to do this for you.



State whether you want your steel in plain finish, Shotblast and primer painted finish or hot dip galvanized.



Arrange to have your steel delivered to site