

MADE IN AMERICA

***"If you can draw it,
we will build it. In steel."***

Dakota Brewer. Dale Brue.
Steel Fabricators. "You got to appreciate what you do, and like doing it," Brue says. "Otherwise, what's the purpose? We're tryin' to teach the new guys what we do, and we do it in steel." They lay out beams, holes, cuts, angles and where the plates go on. Fabricate big box beams with three-, four-inch flanges. A 29-ton piece not uncommon. Couldn't even tell you how many tons fabricated since 1976 when Dale started at Zalk Josephs Fabricators. He gets up early, 3 AM. Never been late. Never.

They say compound miters are tough, but they handle them. Steel's forgiving. Weld it up, fill in little gaps. Proud of every one of their jobs. Like Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago . When the boss sold the project, Zalk came up with an innovative scheme: using cables to support the 14th, 15th and 16th floor. Shaved a couple of months off the duration of project because of it.

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Like the steel they fabricate.



There's always a solution in steel

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"You do something different every day," he says. "We build whole buildings, so you get variety. Trusses from 20-feet to 150-feet long. Some stand 8-feet tall. Lot of high rises, structural steel."

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