PRACTICAL GUIDE / SEPTEMBER 2026

Understanding your structural design

Calculations, elements, assumptions and agreements.

Start with the basics

Check the project address, description and revision. Identify the drawings and data used and the assumed building use. Missing elements may lie outside the assignment.

Calculation and drawing belong together

The report substantiates the selected elements. The structural drawing shows where they are used and how they connect. A section designation alone does not explain how to build the complete structure.

Prepare for your project

[ ]	Address and revision date
[ ]	Design drawings used
[ ]	Calculated parts
[ ]	Material and profile data

This guide helps you gather relevant information and questions. Assessment and design are tailored to your building and assignment.

YOUR PROJECT WORKSHEET

Turn understanding into agreements

Use this worksheet when speaking with your designer, structural engineer or contractor. Record unknown information as an open item.

Topic	Your note / agreement
Calculated parts	
Design version used	
Material data	
Drawings and details	
Missing data	
Questions for the structural engineer	

Determine the load transfer

A static analysis describes how loads, supports and connections together lead to forces and deformations. The chosen schematization must match the actual constructive behavior.

Further reading and discussing your project

What is included in a structural calculation?

Static calculation and strength calculation