

ULTRA ACCESS

The Less is More Rule

Sometimes simplicity in Scaffold Design is better, safer and more aesthetic.

The Less is More rule is a design principle that suggests simplicity and restraint over ones creative imagination can lead to much greater impact during the design process, over outlandish and excessive complexity.

First theorised by **Ludwig Mies van der Rohe** - otherwise known as "Mies" who was a German/American pioneer of modern architecture, who fled Nazi rule in the 1930's... and become known for his simplistic creations.

And for this publication, we would like to loosely associate this term, and re-coin it for those working within the British Scaffolding Industry, who either design scaffolds, request them to be drawn up, for the benefit of who uses them - the boots on the ground scaffolders.

Creating a **scaffold design** can be a tricky process, but by applying "Mies" principle, it doesn't always have to be excessively complex to design, or eventually build.

Having a simplistic mindset and approach to planning the design of a scaffolding structure to suit the EXACT PROJECT REQUIREMENTS whilst applying this nearly 100 year old principle - **Less is More**, is definitely worth considering.

LESS
- = +
IS MORE

Why overcomplicate things?

Trying to build complicated structures, in all kinds of weather conditions, whilst working at height and to within certain timescales / profit margins only puts increased pressure on to the scaffolders who are tasked with building the structure, increasing risk.

Before requesting a scaffold design, or creating one maybe ask yourself...

- Does that Beam *have to go in?*, can that larger spanned section of the scaffold be "Pulled Back" instead?
- Can the scaffold be made just that little bit wider, so that it can be fully boarded out for safe working during the build/dismantle process?
- Does the Protection Fan need to be so "beefy"?, especially if the scaffold is cladded, sheeted, netted, etc.
- If the Loading Bay only has the need, or area capacity to stack 2t of materials on it, does it need to designed to be rated for 10t?



Yes, of course we're (and scaffold designers also) all limited to what is written in the TG (**NASC Technical Guidance**) books/software, but it is still only guidance, and ultimately based on the original British / EU Standard - **BS 5973** and later on **BS EN 12811**, so there might be some "wobble room" and it doesn't mean that the guidance followed has to over complicate the already difficult and dangerous trade that is building scaffolds.

Plan the project, work with the designer, and take a simplistic approach to save time, money, materials, labour, whilst reducing accidents, lowering the risk will help to devise a much more efficient way of working.