

# Cutting edge design and construction



**L**arge spans of 20, 30 or even 40 metres without columns in between are one of the trademarks of international star architect Mario Kleff and his Wandegroup which he utilises not only for condominiums but also for the residences he designs for private clients.

Interesting is that these beams are not only structural components but also design elements as you can see in the middle image alongside – the beams become a part of the lifestyle experience.

But this extreme “design without compromise” needs special technology to be implemented.

The advantage of cellular beams compared to regular I-beams is significant – after laser cutting and welding these beams have twice the stability at a reduced weight.

As this technology was not readily available in Thailand, Mario organised a Japanese-Thai steel manufacturer and a laser cutting company to produce these beams for his construction projects. The welding process is provided by the Wandegroup’s own expert welders.

Asked about the use of the cellular beam technology, Mario highlights another purpose: “We have really close contact with the authorities in Pattaya, Chonburi and Bangkok. They like the use of advanced technology as it delivers technological progress and an opportunity for the Thai engineers and construction workers to be involved in cutting edge design and construction projects and learn how to build to higher standards and more efficiently.” ◻

