WROUGHT IRON

The Design & Quoting Process

the architects of iron work
The Design Brief Stage

The importance of the design brief cannot be overstated. It is the foundation stone the design is built upon and against which design alternatives or options will be tested. The brief is the 'wish-list' of requirements that are essential, desirable and optional. Developing an effective brief is a two-way conversation between client and the design consultant.

Ideally, the client has ideas and information prepared before the meeting. These may take the form of sketches, photos, notes and website links. These ideas, information and requirements are the starting point in the process. Our design consultant will assist in the process of gathering the information and organising it in a logical order.

An effective and comprehensive brief is critical to the success of your metalwork project. A good brief should have very clear client requirements but must also be flexible about how the client's requirements are achieved. It may also need to be varied during the course of a project when unforeseen challenges or constraints arise.

The list of issues to consider and requirements varies on every project. Typically, the brief includes; budget, delivery time, functional requirements, site constraints, legal requirements, building codes and standards. We always cover the points contained in our 12 Design Principles brochure.

The design briefing is usually arranged as a site meeting, with notes and photos taken and sketches made. Different product and design options are explored, and approximate costs of these options can sometimes be given. The fee for this service varies according to the time required, personnel required and complexity of the project.

We will provide a costed design brief proposal at the commencement of the project.
Defining the Scope of Works
Defining the scope of works is very important and forms part of the design brief stage. On multi trade projects especially, it is essential that scope is defined so nothing is overlooked. Many of our projects involve stonemasons, waterproofing contractors, electricians, access control suppliers, painters and tilers. Each trade needs to have a written scope of works, so the client and contractors know who is responsible for what work.

On larger projects, good documentation is essential. JB Wrought Iron always provides well detailed quotes and scope of works documents as well as architectural and shop drawings.

Concept Design Stage
Once the design brief and scope of works are created, we will outline the work required and the cost to proceed to the next stage – usually being the provision of hand sketched concept or schematic drawings.

If the design is contemporary, we engage our in house, Australian based architect. If a very traditional, English or European style of work is required, we engage our UK based designers or Australian based Artist blacksmiths, who have a deep understanding of these styles, are highly trained in design and have hands on experience in blacksmithing shops and in the field.

To see an example of a concept or schematic drawing click [HERE](https://www.jbwi.com.au).

We normally provide 2 design alternatives in a concept design proposal. This investment in concept drawings is relatively small, but it is vital in ensuring the work is architecturally correct. Other designing options at this stage include photomontages, created in Photoshop, rendered 3D drawings created in programs like Revit. We can also make small sample sections so the design can be seen in real life.

Detailed Design Stage
Once a preferred concept design is chosen, we sufficiently detail and specify the concept drawings or images. This allows a realistic and accurate quote be provided to the client. Detailing includes such things as; nominating material sizes, ornate component details, finishes, weld and joining methods, surface finish grade, rustproofing method, locks and furniture, electrical items, methods of installation, dimensions and notes. We
also have an engineer who may need to be involved in the detailing and specifying process. Thorough detailing minimises the risk of the finished product not being what the client was expecting and ensures a high standard of work.

The cost of this stage of work will be quoted after the presentation of the concept drawings. It will vary according to the complexity and size of the project and the number of other trades involved. It may involve meeting with other trades at site to explain the proposed work, discuss methods and advise. It may need to include method statements to outline how the work will be done.

Our method is to co-ordinate the other trades on behalf of the client but allow them to bill the client directly. We include a fee to cover our co-ordination time but do not markup prices or take responsibility for their work, as it would not be covered by our contractor licence.

Quoting
With sufficiently detailed and specified drawings to work from and a detailed scope of works written, we will provide a quote. Having a well detailed quote ensures all our design principles have been incorporated into the finished product. As one of the industry leaders, you can be assured you are being quoted to a standard and not just a price.

Estimating the cost of high quality metalwork can be very time consuming and we request a fee for our time. However, this fee will be deducted from the quoted price if the job proceeds within a certain time. If a client requires quotes on multiple design options or mid project variations, we charge for the estimating time involved. However, our strong focus on the design brief usually avoids the cost of exploring further options.

When a quote is estimated, a provision will be made for supplying detailed CAD drawings for final client approval before work commences. These drawings are essential for doing high quality work and are always provided. Adjustments to the quote can be made if the CAD drawings show the need for any changes.

To see a typical example of a CAD drawing for the front fence and gate of a home click HERE.

Project Implementation
Once a quote is accepted, a deposit is paid, accurate site measuring is done and often a sample section is provided for approval. The final drawings are then submitted for approval before production commences.

Once drawings and any samples are approved, a progress payment arrangement commences with final payment being due on completion.

Our thorough design and quoting process virtually ensures that your property's value is increased.
This job required a wrought iron style fence along the driveway, on top of the stone wall. The design needed to be in keeping with the very substantial, heritage home overlooking the Parramatta River at Hunters Hill.

Part of the brief was that the new fence did not look like a cheap tubular pool fence. Our in-house architect provided 3 schematic drawings based on the site photo.
CASE STUDY 2

This job at Queens Park required a new metal palisade style fence and entry gate to replace the existing timber one which was rotting. The client had quite a definite style in mind, based on other examples in the area and requested some special features on the posts. Our in-house architect drew just one concept sketch, which was approved and then a CAD drawing with very specific detailing was created for final approval. We also arranged for a stonemason to make good the stonework after our work was installed.
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Thank You

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