

## Alternative building methods

The advent of light steel frame construction techniques to create structurally sound dwellings in South Africa is one of the most exciting developments to hit our shores in recent times even though this method of building has been used in the US, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand for decades.

The South African construction industry is rapidly evolving due to the increasing demand for Light Frame Steel Building (LFSB) methods, which is fast becoming a preferred option for large corporates and retailers due to the durability of the structures and the rapid turnaround time necessary for construction.



Start with the framework



Finished home

This is according to Charl van Zyl, CEO of Silverline Group, a construction company that specialises in the construction of Light Frame Steel buildings, who says that due to the various benefits of the alternative construction method, the industry has grown by 21% in the 2012/ 2013 period. Van Zyl says that according to a survey conducted by the Southern African Light Steel Frame Building Association (SASFA), an increased volume of the steel produced in South Africa is used for complete buildings, including walls, as opposed to roof trusses only.

“This is a key sign that LFSB method is becoming a popular construction practice for commercial projects. It also reaffirms the growing acceptance of LFSB by architects, engineers, and builders.” Light Frame Steel is stronger than traditional materials, and offers advantages with regards to energy consumption, speed of construction and quality of the finished project.

He adds that apart from the versatility of Light Frame Steel, it is also one of the most recyclable and sustainable building products, which has also contributed towards the demand and growth in the industry.

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