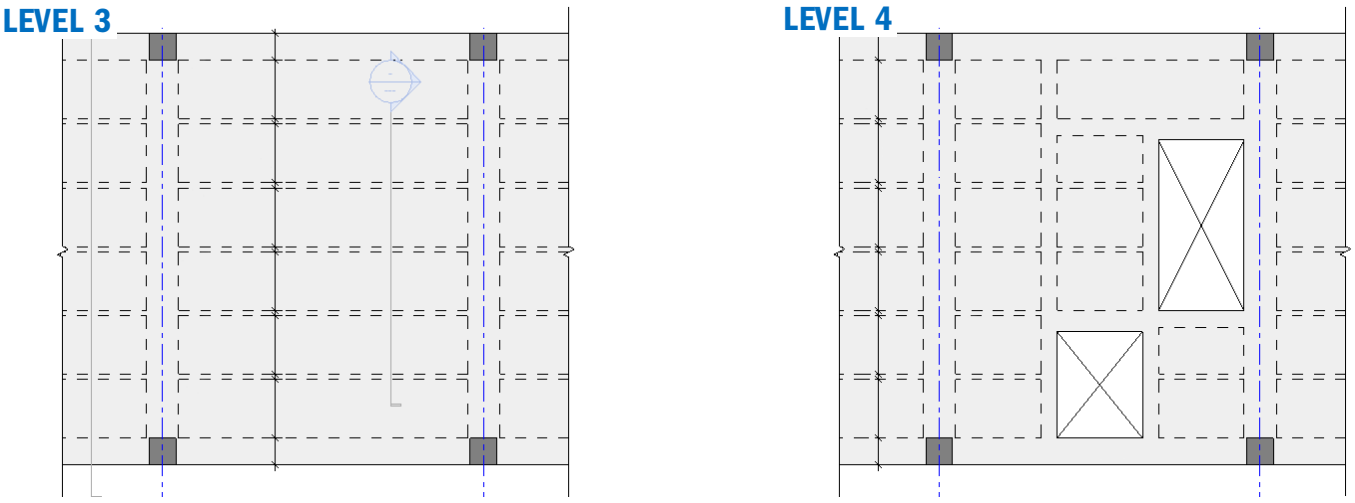
Pan Tips: Pan Layout Considerations

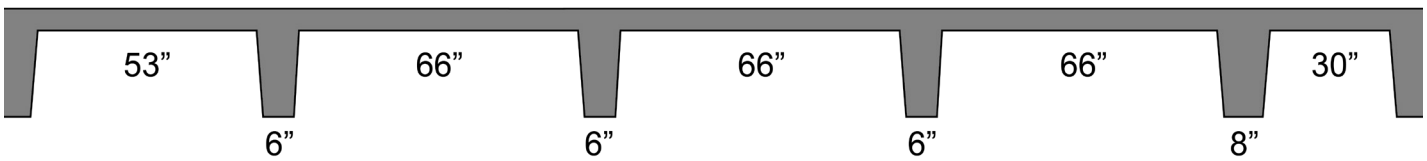
There is considerable design flexibility with pan construction that allows designers to address common project challenges.

Loads and spans determine the width of joists. 66" pans were first produced to work with 6" joists and create 6' design modules (66" + 6"). Joists can be any width needed to carry the design loads. Utilizing standard void widths is key to economy. For instance, a 20x66 pan void spaced to produce 8" joist will give the designer 8" x 25" beams when a 5" topping is used. Using a repetitive joist width and standard pans is the key to economy.

Pans result in monolithic construction with less bounce and vibration than is seen in other structural systems. Pans offer layout flexibility as the pan void layout can change floor to floor or bay to bay.



Different size pans can be used to create a void pattern that accommodates project needs. A project can use 66" wide pans as the standard void in combination with 53" and 30" filler pans to create the desired layout.



Maintaining a standard pan depth throughout the project is important. If loads or conditions require greater capacity, consider changing the pan layout to increase the joist width or widen the steelform depth beams used to carry the joist loads.

When designing projects with pans, the pan configuration itself needs to be kept in mind. End caps are held back from the face of walls and columns by at least 2" and the first void against a wall or deeper beam should allow for the same 2" for the pan flange. These are minimums driven by the pan configuration and practical limitations of driving a nail.