COLUMNS, PIERS and OPENINGS

For the horizontal layout of short panels of brick (i.e. columns or panels between windows) and small openings, the dimensions should correspond closely to the module of the unit used. This is a particular benefit when there are many similar short panels or openings. For longer walls, the mason can adjust mortar joints to get back to the brick module.

The horizontal dimension of a brick panel should be divisible by the module minus 1 mortar joint. (eg. A panel or column 3 standard bricks wide would only have 2 joints and therefore be 590mm not 600mm. Conversely an opening in a brick panel 3 bricks wide would have to account for an extra joint (3 bricks + 4 joints) and be 610mm.

When using over-size brick (Normans, Econ, etc.) consider not just the 1\textsuperscript{st} course but also the 2\textsuperscript{nd}. Often what seems to lay out to the module on one course requires cuts on the second.

The vertical layout is generally less critical because of the frequency and adjustability of the mortar joints, but care should be taken to stay as close to the brick module as possible. This is especially critical when laying out openings and short rises under windows.

Keeping these points in mind will avoid unnecessary cutting and enhance the appearance of your brick project.