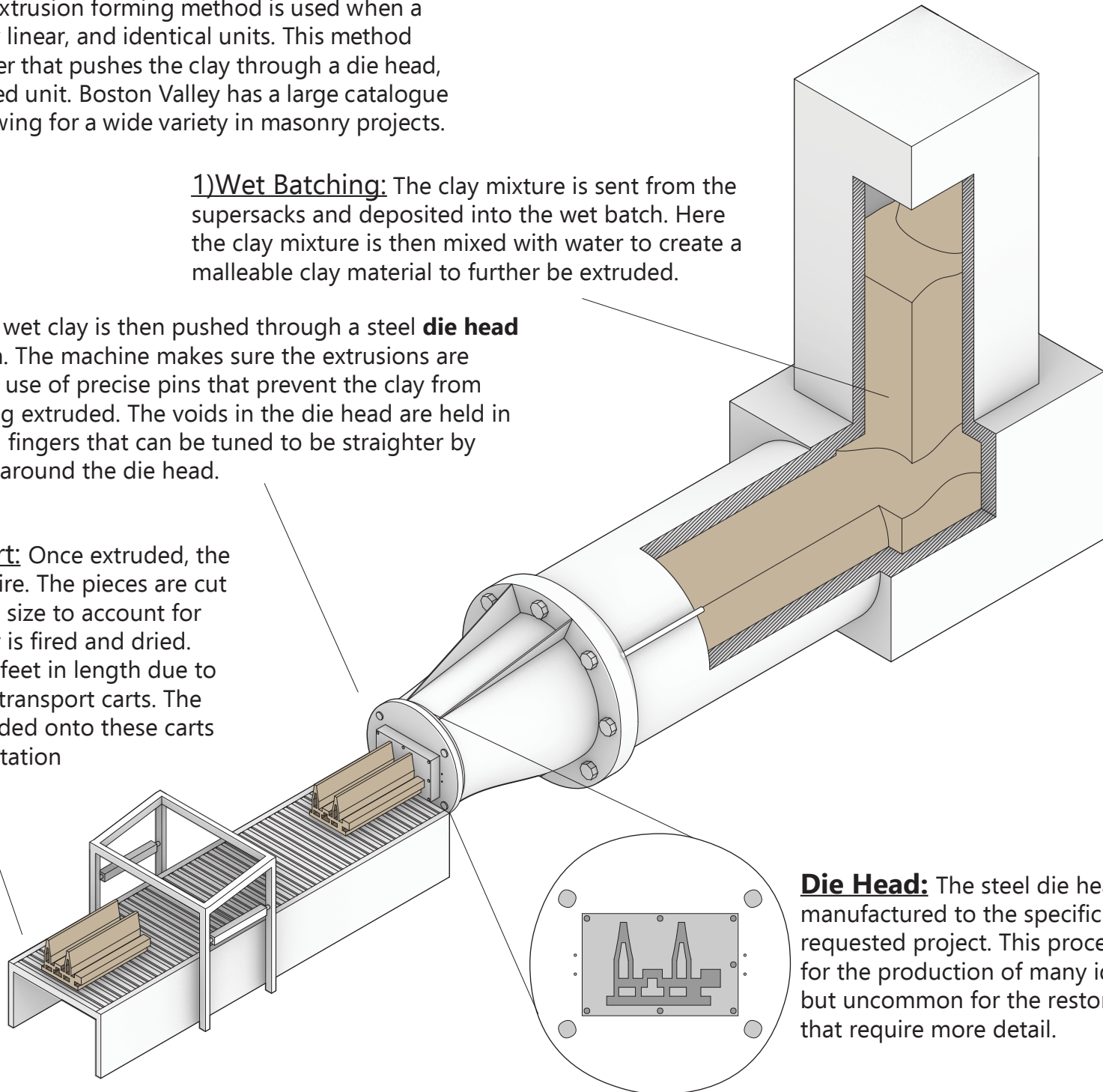


Extruding: The extrusion forming method is used when a project requires many linear, and identical units. This method utilizes a large extruder that pushes the clay through a die head, forming a hollow cored unit. Boston Valley has a large catalogue of extrusion dies allowing for a wide variety in masonry projects.

1)Wet Batching: The clay mixture is sent from the supersacks and deposited into the wet batch. Here the clay mixture is then mixed with water to create a malleable clay material to further be extruded.

2)Extrusion: The wet clay is then pushed through a steel **die head** to achieve its form. The machine makes sure the extrusions are linear through the use of precise pins that prevent the clay from shifting while being extruded. The voids in the die head are held in place by structural fingers that can be tuned to be straighter by tightening screws around the die head.

3)Cutting + Transport: Once extruded, the clay is then cut with a wire. The pieces are cut longer then the finished size to account for shrinkage when the clay is fired and dried. Pieces are kept under 5 feet in length due to the dimensions of their transport carts. The final pieces are then loaded onto these carts and taken to the firing station



Die Head: The steel die head is manufactured to the specific form of the requested project. This process is common for the production of many identical units, but uncommon for the restoration projects that require more detail.