



tower cranes of today...

PRESS INFORMATION

LCL 20.1 MAKES LIFTING A BREEZE AT MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT SITE

A major refurbishment project at GPS House, 215-227 Great Portland Street in the West end of London has utilised Vanson Cranes' LCL 20.1 Hydraulic Luffing Tower Crane to provide an efficient and cost effective method of off loading and distributing materials onto the site.

This purpose built office building, which is located in a prominent position adjacent to The Portland Hospital and directly opposite Great Portland Street Tube Station, is currently undergoing an extensive refurbishment by its owners Amsprop, which is Sir Alan Sugar's privately owned Real Estate vehicle. The inclusion of new air conditioning, along with the construction of an additional sixth floor level, totaling 3,200 sq.ft., will create superior office accommodation for the rental market.

Amsprop's main contractor, Knight Harwood Limited, chose this crane due to it's lightweight design, which enabled it to be sited on a temporary steel base which formed part of the roof extension primary steel frame, allowing the crane to be located above the highest point of the 6th floor extension utilising standard mast sections. Once the crane is removed it will be a relatively easy job to fill in this small section of the buiding to make it watertight.

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From this location the crane is being used to lift the structural steelwork from the delivery vehicles and then to distribute them to roof level, where they are being erected to create the main structure for the glazed office suite. The crane is also being used to unload and distribute the building materials required for the interior fit-out, onto external staggered loading platforms which are integral to the fully designed independent scaffolding. This solution enables materials to be transferred into the building, through the existing windows, via the scaffold run-offs. These loading platforms are strategically located at each floor level on the building's front elevation, which overlooks Great Portland Street, enabling the materials to be placed as close as possible to where they are required, thereby increasing on-site efficiencies.

The 6th floor extension incorporates a barrelled circular zinc roof, facade structural glazing with zinc panelled infills and external Metsec wall linings, which are clad in a stone rendered finish. All of the building materials for these elements are being craned into position using this luffing tower crane. To provide access to this new floor, both the existing staircases and lift shaft are being extended and the materials required to construct these reinforced concrete elements are also being distributed by the LCL 20.1.

According to Steve Callow, the project manager for Knight Harwood Limited "This hydraulic luffing tower crane was able to minimise the requirement for mobile cranes, which would have caused major difficulties at street level due to the building being on a main traffic route. Had we chosen to use mobile cranes, we would have had to make all the necessary arrangements with Westminster City Council to partially close off the road every time we had a delivery, thereby causing considerable inconvenience to local traffic, as well as slowing up the build time for the project.

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“The LCL 20.1 has been perfect for this project and has proved to be an extremely cost effective approach to distributing and off loading materials on this difficult site. The beauty of this crane is that it is quicker than a traditional lifting beam/goods hoist arrangements as the materials can be accurately placed exactly where they are needed, due to the use of inverters on all the crane’s motions. With a lifting beam/goods hoist arrangement it would not have been possible to distribute the materials required to construct the new 6th floor extension without the use of a mobile crane.

“With the benefit of remote control operation this crane has avoided the requirement for a full time banksman, which has further reduced operational costs. The remote control enables the operator to be positioned by the lift, so that they can see the load at every possible position. He can drive the load wherever he wants it to go to increase operational efficiencies and reduce double handing. The only downside is that this crane has been designed to operate at a 20 metre radius with 1 tonne at 20 metre and so we had to manage every lift accordingly.”

The working radius of this luffing jib crane has been set so that it is able to work within the building’s footprint to avoid interfering with other people’s air space, which was of particular importance on this congested inner city site. This capability is also able to keep the ‘out of service’ radius to a minimum in this confined application.

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CAPTION TO PHOTOGRAPH

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