

Lifting of a steel capsule to form the upper part of the indoor ski slope.



▲ *The completed capsule high above the shopping mall*

The last place to expect a ski resort might be Dubai, but now this is becoming reality. Ski Dubai will have a snow park with a 400 m long ski slope, a ski lift with a midway station café and a mural of the Alps on the walls to give the authentic skiing-in-mountains experience. A team of the Discovery Channel was filming the key event of the construction for their documentary series "Kings of Construction". On Labour Day itself the 2,800 t heavy capsule, which will house the upper part of the ski slope was on its way up to final level.

Scope of works performed

- Lifting by 33 m of a 60 x 60m steel structure, with a weight of 2,800 t, complete with concrete slab and partial cladding.

The lifting equipment, consisting of 16 SLU 330, was installed on 4 temporary twin towers located at each corner of the structure measuring 60 x 60 m.

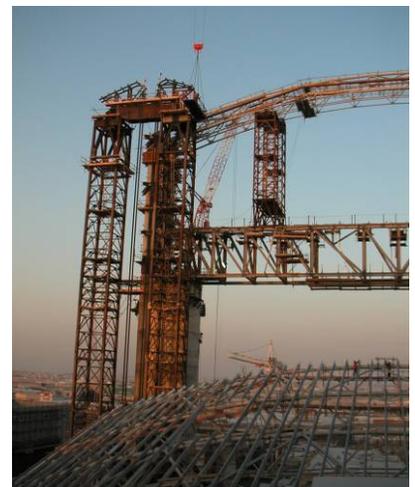
The slender towers with a height of up to 70 m were braced against the permanent structure.

During the lift the bracings had to be removed and reinstalled. The VSL standard computer controls with laser level monitoring were in use to ensure a safe and successful lift.

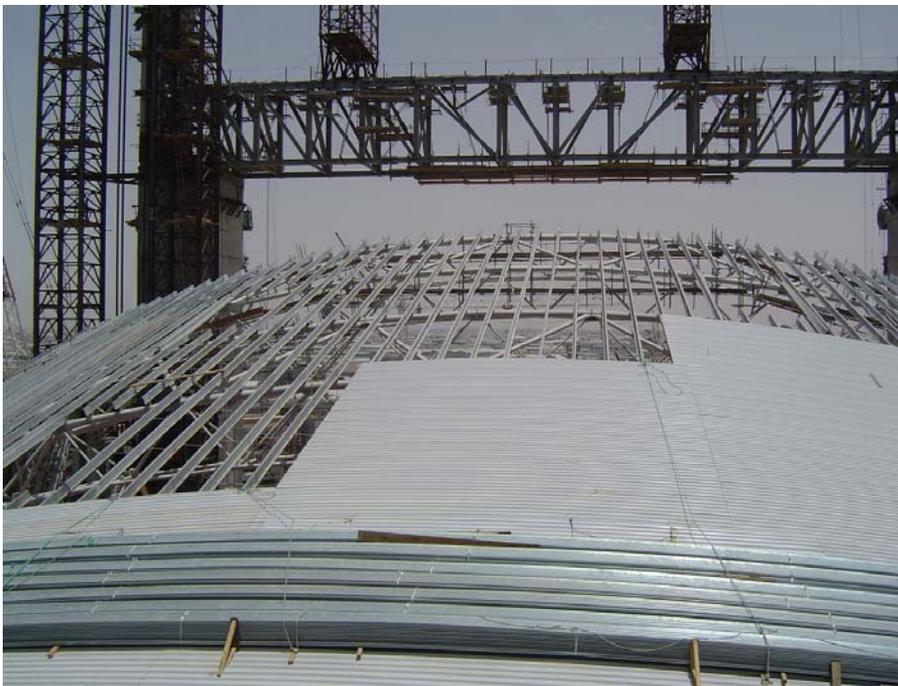
Over the last few months the structure had been taking shape quickly, including most of the cladding.

Immediately after the lift of 33 meters was completed, works

continued on the top to meet the deadline for an opening in September this year. Visitors can then look forward to ski in the snow and swim on the beach on the same day.



▲ *One of the taller towers, braced against the concrete core*



PROJECT

Mall of the Emirates, Snow Centre, Dubai

OWNER

Majid Al-Futtaim Group of Companies

MAIN CONTRACTOR

Al Naboodah Laing O'Rourke JV

STEELWORK CONTRACTOR

Eversendai Engineering

VSL ENTITY

VSL (Switzerland) Ltd



▲ One of the shorter lifting towers. In the background the roof of the lower part of the ski slope, erected in a conventional way.



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