

Description

The present invention relates to a construction apparatus and a construction method advantageously applicable to carrying out the construction of various structures including low buildings and high buildings using the least necessary labor and capable of enabling the construction work to be carried out regardless of weather conditions.

In constructing a multistory building, a conventional construction method erects columns for all the stories, lifts up the component members of the multistory building preassembled on the ground including slabs by lifting machines including cranes, and then joins the component members to the columns. Another conventional construction method stacks up stories one on another by completing a lower story, and then lifting the component members of an upper story by lifting machines including cranes and assembling the component members on the lower story.

Fig. 1 is an illustration of the latter conventional construction method, in which the first and second stories of a building have been completed and the third story is under construction. A worker H standing on the floor of the third story receives building members S lifted by a crane C, and then the worker H assembles the building members S by fixing the building members S at predetermined position by suitable means including welding and bolts.

J. P. Pat. Provisional Pub. (Kokai) No. 62-244941 proposes a construction method which completes one story of a building in a plant installed in the first story of the building by using machines including industrial robots, and then pushes up the complete story by a distance corresponding to the story height. This procedure is repeated to complete a multistory building.

In constructing a multistory building by the foregoing conventional construction method which erects all the columns first, and then assembles the building components lifted up by lifting machines and the other conventional construction method which constructs the stories of a multistory building one by one from the lower stories to the upper stories required, much time and labor is necessary, the progress of the construction schedule is dependent on weather conditions, the construction period is often extended due to various restrictions (for example not to work at night), and various measures must be taken for the safety of the workers.

Although the construction method proposed in J. P. Pat. Provisional Pub. (Kokai) No. 62-244941 solves most of those problems involved in the foregoing conventional construction methods, this construction method has a problem that the height of the building is limited by the strength of the

supporting members for pushing up a completed story of the building in view of the weight of the building and so on. Furthermore, since the weight supported by the supporting members during the construction work increases with the progress of the construction work and the plant is installed on the ground floor, it is possible that the stability of the support of the completed stories against earthquake deteriorates with the progress of the construction work.

DE-C-929089 describes a protective hut with working platforms and conveying devices which can be used around a transverse wall of a building under construction. It comprises four hydraulically adjustable supports to enable its height to be altered according to the progress of the work.

Further prior art references relate to frameworks disposed above completed structures of a building under construction to provide working areas under the framework. In DE-A-2917972 extensible columns 11 are rigidly connected to the building foundation, and additional columns are stacked above them. FR-A-2214019 recites extension means which extend upwards on installation of permanent columns on the extended structure. In FR-A-862806 a roof is supported by a rack mounted on the building walls.

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a construction apparatus and a construction method advantageously applicable to the construction of various structures including high and low buildings requiring the least necessary labour and low costs.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a construction apparatus and a construction method capable of enabling construction work to be carried out regardless of weather conditions.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a construction apparatus and a construction method capable of securing sufficient resistance to earthquakes for a structure under construction.

Accordingly, the invention provides a method of constructing a multistory building in ascending order of stories by sequentially repeating the steps of:

simultaneously extending extension columns provided on a framework placed on a completed structure of the building to form a working space over the completed structure;

sequentially and one at a time contracting the extension columns to form spaces for receiving permanent columns therein between the framework and the completed structure and installing permanent columns in the spaces formed;

installing beams between the adjacent permanent columns;

executing construction work in a structure

formed by the permanent columns and the beams to complete the structure; and

sequentially repeating the steps in that order to construct the next upper structure.

The invention also provides a construction apparatus comprising:

a framework constructed above a completed structure of a building and extension columns provided on the framework, capable of extending downward to support the framework above the completed structure,

a working space being formed between the framework and the completed structure;

characterised in that the framework comprises at least four of said extension columns and in that each of said extension columns are capable of being contracted independently of each other to provide spaces for installing permanent columns on the completed structure.

The extension columns provided on the framework are extended simultaneously to elevate the framework so that a temporary working space is formed between the framework and the underlying completed structure supporting the extension columns. The extended extension columns serve as temporary columns during construction work in the temporary work space over the underlying completed structure. The extension columns corresponding, respectively, to positions where permanent columns are to be installed are contracted sequentially one at a time to install the permanent columns sequentially at positions corresponding to the contracted extension columns. Thus, a working space provided with the permanent columns is formed under the framework. After a structure to be constructed in the working space has been completed, the extension columns are extended again simultaneously to form another temporary working space for constructing the next upper structure. Since the upper structures are constructed sequentially by extending and contracting the extension columns to secure a working space, the construction work can be easily controlled automatically, and the use of the construction apparatus in combination with automatic construction equipment enables automatic construction work.

A roof is formed over the framework and an enclosure is formed around the framework to shield the working space from the outside. Accordingly, the construction work can be carried out without being affected by weather conditions and without giving public nuisance to the environment. The framework and roof of the construction apparatus may be incorporated into the building as a pent-house.

The framework may be a temporary framework provided with a temporary roof and a temporary enclosure, which are the same in function as the

foregoing roof and enclosure.

The extension columns may be hydraulic cylinders, screw jacks, or a rack-and-pinion mechanism comprising pinions rotatably supported on the framework and rods provided with racks respectively engaging the pinions.

Overhead traveling cranes detachably provided with construction robots may be provided on the framework. In some cases, the traveling cranes and the construction robots are controlled on a cylindrical coordinate system or a polar coordinate system.

Lifts each provided with a rotary floor for unloading the cargo at an optional angular position may be installed in the internal space of the building.

A control room may be constructed in the upper space of the framework.

In a particular embodiment of the present invention, a construction apparatus comprises a framework placed on a completed structure of a building under construction to form a working space for construction work including installing permanent columns, elevating means provided on the framework and capable of extending downward from the framework to elevate the same and to serve as temporary columns for forming the working space over the completed structure of the building, locking mechanism provided on the lower ends of the elevating means and removably fitting the completed structure of the building, and construction means provided on the framework for construction work in the working space.

The locking mechanism is fitted with the upper ends of the permanent columns prior installed the underlying completed structure of the building.

The holding means is provided on the framework and capable of extending downward from the framework to position and hold the permanent columns installed upright in the working space at the upper ends thereof.

The permanent column has an engaging portion at the upper end thereof and the holding means have a fitting portion at the lower end thereof opposite to the upper end of the permanent column for positioning each other.

The permanent column has an engaging portion at the upper end thereof.

The permanent column has a fitting end portion at the lower end thereof fitting the engaging portion of the other permanent column prior installed the underlying completed structure of the building.

The locking mechanism have a fitting portion at the lower end thereof opposite to the upper end of the permanent column to engaging the engaging portion of the permanent column for positioning each other.

The framework can be positioned correctly relative to the completed structure of the building and the framework is restrained from lateral movement relative to the completed structure by the engagement of the fitting portion of the locking mechanism provided on the lower ends of the elevating means serving as the temporary columns and the engaging portion formed in the upper ends of the permanent columns of the underlying completed structure of the building, so that the framework can be supported securely on the completed structure of the building under construction and the earthquake resistance of the framework during the construction work is improved.

The framework is elevated by downwardly extending the elevating means serving as the temporary columns to form the working space, the permanent columns are installed in the working space by the construction means, the permanent columns is firmly positioned one at a time by extending the holding means, and the permanent columns and beams previously attached to the permanent columns or attached to the permanent columns in the working space are joined firmly to complete the structure of an upper story on the underlying previously completed structure of the building.

After completing the structure of the upper story, the framework is elevated again by the elevating means to start constructing the structure of the next upper story.

Thus, the framework is elevated repeatedly to form working spaces sequentially for the upper stories to proceed with sequentially constructing the upper stories from the lower to the upper stories. Such regular upward shift of the working space and the construction within the working space facilitate the automated control of elevating the framework, driving the holding means and the operation of the construction means, and enables automated construction work using automatic construction machines.

The fitting end portions formed on the lower ends of the permanent columns, and the engaging portions formed in the upper ends of the permanent columns bring the permanent columns for the upper structure into alignment with the permanent columns of the underlying structure in installing the permanent columns for the upper structure, so that the permanent columns for the upper structure are joined correctly and easily to those of the underlying structure.

Since the fitting portions formed on the lower ends of the holding means engage the engaging portions formed in the upper ends of the permanent columns, the permanent columns are positioned easily and held stably, the support of the framework is reinforced and hence the earthquake

resistance of the framework during the construction is improved.

Figure 1 is a pictorial view of assistance in explaining a conventional construction method; Figures 2(A) to 2(F) are schematic perspective view of assistance in explaining the principle of a construction apparatus in a first embodiment according to the present invention;

Figures 3(A) and 3(B) are fragmentary sectional views of essential portions of extension columns (extension means) and holding mechanisms employed in the construction apparatus embodying the present invention;

Figure 4 is an illustration showing the construction apparatus in the first embodiment according to the present invention as applied to practical construction work;

Figures 5(A) to 5(F) are schematic perspective views of assistance in explaining the principle of a construction apparatus in a second embodiment according to the present invention;

Figure 6 is a schematic perspective view of a construction apparatus in the second embodiment according to the present invention as applied to a practical construction work;

Figure 7 is a schematic plan view of an essential portion of the construction apparatus shown in Fig. 6;

Figure 8 is a sectional view taken on line XI-XI in Fig. 7;

Figure 9 is a sectional view taken on line XII-XII in Fig. 7;

Figure 10 is a sectional view taken on line XIII-XIII in Fig. 7; and

Figure 11 is a plan view taken in the direction of an arrow XIV in Fig. 7.

The principle on which a construction apparatus in a first embodiment according to the present invention is based will be described with reference to Figs. 2(A) to 2(F). The construction apparatus shown in Figs. 2(A) to 2(F) by way of example comprises, as principal components, a framework 3 (either permanent or temporary) constructed on a previously completed structure of a building 10 to form a working space 14 between the framework 3 and the underlying structure, and extension columns 1 provided on the framework 3, capable of extending downward from the framework 3 to serve as temporary columns for forming the working space 14 between the framework 3 and the underlying structure. And the extension columns 1 may be capable of being individually contracted to form a space 15 between the lower end thereof and the underlying structure of the building 10 for receiving a permanent column 6 therein. The framework 3 is provided with a roof 16 to cover the working space 14.

In this example, four extension columns 1 are hydraulic cylinders each having a rod 2. The stroke of the rod 2 is slightly greater than the story height of a structure to be constructed on the underlying structure of the building 10.

Each of the extension column 1 may be, as shown in Fig. 3(A), a combination of a rod 2 provided with a rack 20 along the entire length thereof, a sheath 13 fixed to the framework 3 and slidably receiving the rod 2 therein, and a pinion 21 rotatably supported on the sheath 13 and engaging the rack 20 to extend or contract the rod 2 along the sheath 13 or may be, as shown in Fig. 3(B), a combination of a rod 2 externally provided with a helical thread 22, and a sheath 13 internally provided with a helical groove 23 engaging the helical thread 22 of the rod 2, which is similar to a screw jack. The rod 2 is extended or contracted by rotating the rod 2 relative to the sheath 13.

When the framework 3 is for temporary use, the framework 3 is formed in a shape similar in the plan to the shape of the upper surface of the underlying structure of the building 10, for example, a rectangular shape as shown in Figs. 2(A) to 2(F). When the framework 3 is for permanent use, the framework 3 is formed so as to support the roof, not shown, of a building to be constructed. The extension columns 1 are fixed to the framework 3 so as to support the same on the underlying structure of the building 10.

A travelling crane 5 is supported on opposite beams 3a and 3b of the framework 3 for travel along the beams 3a and 3b, and a welding robot 4, for example, is mounted removably on the travelling crane 5.

Referring to Fig. 2(A), the rods 2 of the four extension columns 1 are extended simultaneously to their full length to form the working space 14 between the framework 3 and the underlying structure of the building 10. In this state, the rods 2 serve as temporary columns. Then, the rod 2 of one of the extension columns 1 is fully retracted to form a space 15 for receiving a permanent column 6 between the lower end of the rod 2 and the underlying structure of the building 10. In this state, the framework 3 is supported by the other three extension columns 1. In practical application, the construction apparatus is provided with far more than four extension columns 1 to support the framework 3 by far more than four rods 2, and hence the framework 3 can be supported securely even if some of the rods 2 are fully retracted.

Referring to Fig. 2 (B), a permanent column 6 is installed in the space 15 below the contracted extension column 1. In installing the permanent column 6, the welding robot 4 is removed from the travelling crane 5 and a column installing robot 9 capable of gripping the permanent column 6 is

mounted on the travelling crane 5 to carry and install the permanent column 6.

Then, as shown in Fig. 2(C), the permanent column 6 is fixed firmly to the underlying structure of the building 10, for example, by welding while the rod 2 of the extension column 1 presses the permanent column 6 against the underlying structure of the building 10. Then, the rod 2 of another extension column 1 is fully retracted and another permanent column 6 is installed fixedly on the underlying structure through the same procedure. Thus, the permanent columns 6 are installed below the four extension columns 1 on the underlying structure by repeating the same procedure, while the column installing robot 9 is moved to relevant positions by the travelling crane 5.

Then, as shown in Fig. 2(D), the column installing robot 9 is changed for a beam installing robot 12, and then beams 7 are joined to the permanent columns 6 by using the beam installing robot 12.

In joining the beam 7 to the permanent columns 6, the beam 7 is extended between opposite beam joints 8 attached previously to the permanent columns 6, and then the beam 7 is fixed to the beam joints 8 by suitable means, such as welding or bolting.

The beam installing robot 12 is moved to relevant positions in joining the all beams 7 to the permanent columns 6.

Fig. 2(E) shows a stage of the construction work immediately after the completion of installation of the beams 7. In this example, the beams 7 are joined to the beam joints 8 by both welding and bolting; that is, first all the beams 7 are installed between and fastened with bolts and nuts to the beam joints 8 by using the beam installing robot 12, the beam installing robot 12 is changed for the welding robot 4, and then the beams 7 are welded to the beam joints 8 by using the welding robot 4. The welding robot 4 is used also for welding floor slabs to the beams 7.

Subsequently, all the work necessary for completing the story including installing external walls 11 (Fig. 2(F)), setting partitions, constructing booths including a service room, a bathroom and a lavatory, installing utensils and equipments, and hanging the ceiling, and flooring the slabs is carried out. The floor slabs may be joined to the beams 7 either after all the permanent columns 6 have been installed or after some of the permanent columns 6 have been installed.

Then, as shown in Fig. 2(F), the rods 2 of all the extension columns 1 are extended simultaneously to form another working space 14 for constructing the next upper story. Then, the procedure illustrated by Figs. 2(A) to 2(F) is repeated to construct the next upper structure.

Thus, the stories of the building are constructed sequentially from the lower stories to the upper stories to complete the building.

When the framework 3 is a temporary framework, the construction apparatus is disassembled and removed after completing the uppermost story to complete the construction work. When the component members of the extension columns 1, the rods 2 and the framework 3 are the same strength, respectively, as the permanent columns 6 and the beams 7, the work for disassembling and removing the construction apparatus is simplified because most of the component members of the construction apparatus can be utilized for the structure of the uppermost story.

When the framework 3 is a permanent framework, the component members of the construction apparatus except the roof, the framework 3 and the extension columns 1 are removed after constructing the structure of the uppermost story, and then the uppermost story is finished to complete the construction of the building. If each of the extension columns 1 is a combination of the sheath 13 and the rod 2 as shown in Fig. 3(B), the sheath 13 and the rod 2 are designed so that the extension column 1 is equivalent size and strength to the permanent column 6 when the rod 2 is fully retracted into the sheath 13.

Fig. 4 shows a construction apparatus in a first embodiment according to the present invention as applied to practical construction work, in which parts like or corresponding to those previously described with reference to Fig. 2(A) to 2(F), 3(F) and 3(B) are denoted by the same reference characters.

Shown in Fig. 4 is the construction apparatus embodying the present invention as applied to the construction of an annular building 10 requiring the least necessary workers. An elevator shaft 30 installed in the central space of the building 10 so that the elevator 31 can transport construction materials including permanent columns 6 and beams 7.

When a framework 3 is a temporary framework, the framework 3 is formed in a shape substantially the same in the horizontal projection as the horizontal section of the building 10. A control room 32 is constructed on the framework 3.

When the framework 3 is a permanent framework, the framework 3 and a roof 16 formed on the framework 3 are incorporated into the building 10. In this case, the control room 32 is constructed in a space under the roof 16.

Cylindrical buildings and semispherical buildings facilitate the accurate control of construction robots by using a control system under a cylindrical coordinate system or a polar coordinate system, which enables the building to be constructed

at a reduced construction cost.

An operator operates a controller 33 including a computer and installed in the control room 32 to carry out all the steps of the construction work previously described with reference to Figs. 2(A) to 2(F) automatically.

A truck 34 loaded with permanent columns 6 is lifted to a story under construction by the elevator 31 from the ground, the permanent columns 6 are carried and installed sequentially at predetermined positions below extension columns 1 by a column installing robot 9 mounted on a traveling crane 5 (Fig. 2(B)), and then the permanent columns 6 are welded to the upper ends of the permanent columns 6 of the underlying story at positions near the floor slabs 35 by a welding robot 4.

A truck 36 loaded with beams 7 is lifted to the story by the elevator 31 from the ground, the beams 7 are installed fixedly between the opposite beam joints 8 of the permanent columns 6 by a beam installing robot 12.

The floor of the elevator 31 is rotatable through an angle of 360° to direct the trucks 34 and 36 in a desired direction so that the trucks 34 and 36 are able to move to a desired position suitable for installing the permanent columns 6 and the beams 7.

After all the permanent columns 6 and all the beams 7 have been thus installed in place, construction work necessary for the story including attaching external wall panels 11 by means of quick fasteners 37, flooring the floor slabs 35 and hanging the ceiling is carried out by construction robots mounted on the traveling cranes 5.

After the story has been completed, the rods 2 of the extension columns 1 are extended simultaneously to form a working space for construction work to construct the next upper story. Then the next upper story is constructed in the same manner as described above.

When the framework 3 is a temporary framework, the construction apparatus and the control room 32 are removed after the completion of construction of the uppermost story, and then a roof is constructed.

When the component parts of the construction apparatus are the same strength as the permanent columns 6 and the beams 7, those component parts may be incorporated into the uppermost story of the building 10. The roof 38 constructed on the framework 3 may also be used a permanent roof to be incorporated into the building 10 if the strength of the roof 38 is the same as those of the permanent one.

When the framework 3 is a permanent framework, the control room 32 and the components of the construction apparatus except the framework 3, the roof 16 and the extension columns 1 are dis-

assembled and removed after completing the uppermost story. If required, the equipment of the control room 32 including the controller 33 are removed and the control room 32 may be left as it is as the uppermost story of the building 10.

When the framework 3 is a temporary framework, the framework 3 is covered with the temporary roof 38 and enclosed with a temporary enclosure 39 to arrest noise generated by the construction work, to prevent the influence of environmental radiowaves and electromagnetic waves on electrical communication between the controller 33 installed in the control room 32 and the construction equipment including the construction robots and to shield the control room 32 and the working space 14 from rain and wind.

When the framework 3 is a permanent framework, the framework 3 is covered and enclosed with the roof 16 having an enclosure hanging from the periphery of the roof 16 for the same purposes as those of the temporary roof 38 and the temporary enclosure 39.

Providing the roof 16 and the enclosure for the permanent framework 3, or the temporary roof 38 and the temporary enclosure 39 for the temporary framework 3 with a soundproof capability and a radiowave and electromagnetic wave intercepting capability enables maintaining the working environment in a satisfactory condition and prevents the uncontrolled operation of the computer of the controller 33 and the construction robots.

If the maximum length of the extension columns 1, namely, the length of the extension columns 1 when the rods 2 are fully extended, may be such as corresponding to twice the story height of the building 10 or greater, permanent columns having a length corresponding to twice the story height of the building 10 or greater can be installed.

The foregoing construction apparatus embodying the present invention has the following advantages.

The sequential progress of the construction from the lower to upper stories of a building by extending and contracting the extension columns to secure a working space for each story facilitates the automated control of the construction work and the use of automatic construction equipment for automated construction work.

The possibility of using the components of the construction apparatus including the permanent framework in combination with the permanent roof and the permanent extension columns which are used for the construction work enhances the economic effect of the construction apparatus and equipment investment efficiency.

Shielding the working space by the roof and the enclosure enables the regular progress of the

construction work regardless of weather conditions.

The automation of the construction work and the elimination of the influence of weather conditions on the construction work enable uninterrupted day-and-night construction work to shorten the construction period remarkably.

Whereas the plant employed in carrying out the previously proposed construction method must support the enormous weight of a whole building structure throughout the construction period and hence the previously proposed method is applicable only to the lower light weight buildings, the construction apparatus of the present invention is applicable to the higher heavy weight buildings and can be fabricated at a reduced cost because the extension columns of the construction apparatus of the present invention support only the temporary or permanent roof, the temporary or permanent framework, the temporary enclosure and the control room including the control equipment. Principle on which a construction apparatus in a second embodiment according to the present invention is based will be described with reference to Figs. 5(A) to 5(F).

Basically, a construction apparatus of the second embodiment of the present invention comprises a framework 203 placed on a completed structure of a building 210 under construction to form a working space 214 for construction work including installing permanent columns 206, elevating mechanisms 207 provided on the framework 203 and capable of extending downward from the framework 203 to elevate the same and to serve as temporary columns for forming the working space 214 over the completed structure of the building 210, locking mechanism provided on the lower ends of the elevating mechanism 207 and removably fitting the completed structure of the building 210, and construction machines provided on the framework 203 for construction working the working space 214. A holding mechanisms 201 are provided on the framework 203 and capable of extending downward from the framework 203 to position and hold permanent columns 206 installed in the working space at the upper ends thereof. Construction machines include a traveling crane 205, construction robots, such as a column installing robot 209, a beam installing robot 291, external wall setting robot 292 and a welding robot 204.

The locking mechanisms are fitted with the upper ends of the permanent columns 206 prior installed the underlying completed structure of the building 210. Practically, the permanent column 206 has a conical recess 206y at the upper end thereof and the holding mechanism 201 has a conical projection 202x at the lower end thereof opposite to the upper end of the permanent column 206 for positioning each other. And the permanent

column 206 has a conical recess 206y at the upper end thereof. The permanent column 206 has a conical projection 206x at the lower end thereof fitting the conical recess 206y of the other permanent column 206 prior installed the underlying completed structure of the building 210. And the locking mechanism have a conical projection 208x at the lower end thereof opposite to the upper end of the permanent column 206 to engaging the conical recess 206y of the permanent column 206 for positioning each other. It is also possible to change the conical projections 202x, 206x and 208x for conical recesses and the conical recesses 206y for conical projections or to change the conical recesses 206y for simple holes.

In an example shown in Figs. 5(A) to 5(F), the two holding mechanism 201 are provided diagonally opposite to each other on the framework 203, and the two elevating mechanisms 207 are provided diagonally opposite to each other on the framework 203. However, a practical construction apparatus is provided with more than two holding mechanisms 201 and more than two elevating mechanisms 207.

The holding mechanism 201 is a hydraulic actuator having a rod 202 slidably received in a cylinder for projection and retraction. Each holding mechanism 201 may be constructed, instead of the hydraulic actuator, such as shown in Fig. 3(A) or Fig. 3(B).

The elevating mechanism 207 comprises a hollow shaft, a post 208 having a length slightly longer than twice the story height of the building 210 and received slidably in the hollow shaft, and a hydraulic device, not shown, for moving the post 208.

The post 208 of each elevating mechanism 207 is provided on the lower end thereof with a conical projection 208x. Each permanent column 206 is provided in the upper end thereof with a conical recess 206y fitting the conical projection 208x, and a conical projection 206x similar to the conical projection 208x of the post 208 on the lower end thereof. A conical projection 202x similar to the conical projection 206x is formed on the lower end of the rod 202 of the holding mechanism 201. The conical projections 208x of the posts 208, the conical projections 206x of the permanent columns 206 and the conical projections 202x of the rods 202 are capable of engaging the conical recesses 206y of the permanent columns 206.

The holding mechanisms 201 and the elevating mechanisms 207 are attached to the framework 203 having a shape in plan substantially the same as the shape of the upper surface of a completed structure of the building 210 (a rectangular shape, in the example shown in Figs. 5(A) to 5(F)) respectively at the four vertical edges thereof. In a practical construction apparatus embodying the present

invention, the holding mechanisms 201 and the elevating mechanisms 207 are attached at appropriate intervals to the periphery of a framework similar to the framework 203.

A traveling crane 205 is mounted on the opposite beams 203a and 203b of the framework 203, and a column installing robot 209 is held removably on the traveling crane 205.

In placing the framework 203 on the completed structure of the building 210, the conical projections 208x of the posts 208 of the elevating mechanisms 207 are fitted in the conical recesses 206y of the permanent columns 206 of the underlying completed structure of the building 210 to position the framework 203 correctly relative to the underlying completed structure of the building 210. The engagement of the conical projections 208x and the conical recesses 206y restrains the posts 208 from lateral movement to support the framework 203 stably so that the earthquake resistance of the framework 203 is improved. In the example shown in Figs. 5(A) to 5(F), the two elevating mechanisms 207 are disposed diagonally opposite to each other, and hence the support of the framework 203 seems unstable. However, in a practical construction apparatus embodying the present invention, far more than two elevating mechanisms are arranged at appropriate intervals to support the framework 203 stably.

The hydraulic devices of the elevating mechanisms 207 are driven to project the posts 208 downward, and thereby the framework 203 is elevated to form the working space 214 over the completed structure of the building 210 as shown in Fig. 5(A). In this state, spaces 215 for receiving the permanent columns 206 are formed directly below the retracted rods 202 of the holding mechanisms 201.

Then, as shown in Fig. 5(B), the column installing robot 209 installs a permanent column 206 in the space 215 directly below the rod 202 of the holding mechanism 201 so that the conical projection 206x formed on the lower end of the permanent column 206 is received in the conical recess 206y formed in the upper end of the permanent column 206 of the underlying completed structure of the building 210. Even if the conical projection 206x is deviated slightly from the conical recess 206y in installing the permanent column 206, the conical projection 206x and the conical recess 206y can be closely engaged by applying a small pressure to the permanent column 206. Therefore, the column installing robot 209 need not be controlled highly accurately, which facilitates the installation of the permanent column 206.

Then, as shown in Fig. 5(C), the rod 202 of the holding mechanism 201 is projected slightly so that the conical projection 202x of the rod 202 engage

the conical recess 206y formed in the upper end of the permanent column 206 to position and hold the permanent column 206 in place, and then the permanent column 206 is welded to the completed structure of the building 210 by the welding robot 204 removably held on the traveling crane 205. Even if permanent column 206 is misaligned slightly relative to the rod 202, the permanent column 206 is brought into alignment with the rod 202 by the engagement of the conical projection 202x of the rod 202 and the conical recess 206y of the permanent column 206 when the permanent column 206 is pressed by the rod 202, which facilitates the correct positioning of the permanent column 206. Since the upper end and the lower end of the permanent column 206 is engaged with the rod 202 and the underlying permanent column, the permanent column 206 is held securely, the support of the framework 203 is reinforced and hence the earthquake resistance of the framework 203 during the construction is improved. Subsequently, the other permanent column 206 is installed and fixed to the underlying permanent column 206 in the same manner.

Then, as shown in Fig. 5(D), the post 208 of the elevating mechanism 207 is retracted by driving the hydraulic device of the elevating mechanism 207 to form a space 215 for installing a permanent column 206 directly below the post 208, and then the permanent column 206 is installed and fixed to the underlying permanent column 206 of the completed structure of the building 210 in the same manner as that for installing and fixing the permanent column 206 in the space 215 directly below the rod 202 of the holding mechanism 201. Then, a permanent column 206 is installed and fixed to the underlying permanent column 206 at a position diagonally opposite the previously fixed permanent column 206 as shown in Fig. 5(E).

In thus setting up the permanent columns 206, beams 260 joined beforehand to the adjacent permanent columns 206 are welded together at appropriate time by the welding robot 204 held on the traveling crane 205 as shown in Fig. 5(F). It is also possible to prepare the beams 260 and the permanent columns 206 separately and to weld each beam 260 at the opposite ends thereof to beam joints, not shown, attached to the opposite sides of the adjacent permanent columns 206.

The foregoing steps of operation of the holding mechanisms 201 and the elevating mechanisms 207 are repeated for all the permanent columns 206 and the beams 260. After all the permanent columns 206 and all the beams 260 have thus been set as shown in Fig. 5(F), all the work necessary for completing the story including installing external walls 211 (Fig. 6), setting partitions, constructing booths including a service room, a bath-

room and a lavatory, hanging the ceiling, and flooring the slabs.

Subsequently, the elevating mechanisms 207 are driven again to elevate the framework 203 as shown in Fig. 5(A) to start the construction of the next upper story, in which the steps shown in Figs. 5(A) to 5(F) are repeated. After all the structures of the building 210 have been completed from the lower stories to the upper stories, the construction apparatus including the framework 203 and the holding mechanisms 201 is disassembled and removed, and then the uppermost story is finished to complete the building 210. When composed of members having strength equivalent to or higher than the permanent columns 206 and the beams 260, the holding mechanisms 201, the framework 203 and the elevating mechanisms 207 can be used as the components of the structure of the uppermost story, which simplifies or enables the omission of disassembling and removing the construction apparatus.

Fig. 6 is a schematic perspective view illustrating a construction apparatus of the third embodiment as applied to a practical construction work; in which parts like or corresponding to those previously described with reference to Figs. 5(A) to 5(F), 3(A) and 3(B) are denoted by the same reference characters. Fig. 7 is a schematic plan view of an essential portion of the construction apparatus shown in Fig. 6, Fig. 8 is a sectional view taken on line XI-XI in Fig. 7, Fig. 9 is a sectional view taken on line XII-XII in Fig. 7, Figure 10 is a sectional view taken on line XIII-XIII in Fig. 7, and Fig. 11 is a plan view as viewed in the direction of an arrow XIV in Fig. 7.

A building 210 shown in Fig. 6 is substantially rectangular in plan.

An elevator shaft is constructed in the central space of the building 210, and an elevator is installed in the elevator shaft to transport construction materials including permanent columns 206 and beams 207.

The construction apparatus is substantially the same in plan as the building 210. A framework 203 included in the construction apparatus is provided with a cover 216. A control room 232 is formed in a space covered with the cover 216.

The construction apparatus is controlled by a computerized controller 233 installed in the control room 232 and operated by an operator for automatic execution of the construction steps shown in Figs. 5(A) to 5(F).

A plurality of elevating mechanisms 207 are arranged in pairs. Each pair of elevating mechanisms 207 are disposed adjacently. While one of the elevating mechanisms 207 of each pair is contracted the other is extended. Accordingly, the framework 203 is supported alternately by one of

the elevating mechanisms 207 of each pair and the other of the same. A hydraulic mechanism 270 for operating the elevating mechanism 207 is disposed on top of the framework 203 to project a post 208 downward from the framework 203 and to retract the post 208 upward.

Furthermore, since the post 208 of the elevating mechanism 207 is held at all time by the hydraulic mechanism 270 driving the post 208, the framework 203 is firmly engaged with the post 208 even if the horizontal force such as the earthquake or the wind force acts the framework 203, therefore the vibration resistance of this construction apparatus is improved still more.

Each of permanent columns 206 transported from the ground to a story under construction by an elevator is transported to and installed at a position specified by the computerized controller 232 by a column installing robot 209 held on a traveling crane 205, and then the permanent column 206 is welded to the upper end of a permanent column 206 of the underlying completed structure of the building 210 by a welding robot 204. Then, beams 260 previously attached to the adjacent permanent columns 206 are welded together by the welding robot 204.

Especially, the permanent column 206 is formed higher than one story height, and attached integrally the beams 260 extending both sides thereof at the upper end and the lower end of the permanent column 206, respectively. Then in a practical work, the beam 260 of the upper end of the permanent column 206 is welded the beam 260 of the lower end of the permanent column 206 which is adjacent to the former, as the result the construction work of the permanent columns 206 and the beams 260 in the one story is finished by setting the half number of columns 206 and beams 260, in considering the column and the beam installation of each story. Therefore, the efficiency of the construction work is improved in comparing the case which all the columns 206 and the beams 260 is setting in each story.

After fixedly installing all the permanent columns 206 and all the beams 260, construction work necessary for completing the story including installing external wall panels 211 is carried out by construction robots held on the traveling cranes 205. Then, the elevating mechanisms 207 are driven to elevate the framework 203 to construct a structure for the next upper story. The structure of the next upper story is constructed by repeating the same steps of construction work. After the structures of all the stories of the building 210 have been constructed, the construction apparatus and the control room are removed, and then the roof of the building 210 is constructed.

The cover 216 provided on the framework 203 consists of a temporary roof 238 and a temporary enclosure 239. The cover 216 arrest noise generated by the construction work, prevents the influence of disturbance, such as environmental radiowaves, on electrical signals given from the computerized controller 233 installed in the control room 232 to the construction machines including the construction robots, and to shield the control room 232 and the story under construction from rain and wind.

As mentioned above, when composed of members having strength equivalent to or greater than that of the permanent columns 206 and the beams 260, the holding mechanisms 201, the framework 203 and the elevating mechanisms 207 may be incorporated into the building 210. The temporary roof 238 may be formed of the same materials and in the same construction as those of the permanent roof of the building 210 to incorporate the temporary roof 238 to the building 210 as the permanent roof.

Whereas the previously proposed plant installed on the ground floor must support the increasing enormous weight of a building throughout the construction period, the posts 208 of the elevating mechanisms 207 of the construction apparatus according to the present invention support only the framework 203, the cover 216 and the construction equipments provided on the framework 203. Accordingly, the construction apparatus has a sufficient earthquake resistance and is applicable to the construction of buildings unlimited in height.

The above construction apparatus according to the second embodiment has the following advantages.

The engagement of the conical projections of the locking mechanisms provided on the lower ends of the elevating mechanisms and the conical recesses formed in the upper ends of the permanent columns positions the framework accurately relative to the completed structure of the building, prevents the lateral movement of the framework relative to the completed structure of the building, supports the framework stably and improves the earthquake resistance of the construction apparatus during the construction.

The upward progress of the construction work by repeatedly elevating the framework by the elevating mechanisms to form working spaces sequentially for upper stories facilitates the automatic control of the construction work and the employment of automated construction equipments and saves labor.

The engagement of the conical projections formed on the lower ends of the permanent columns and the conical recesses formed in the upper ends of the permanent columns easily brings the

permanent columns into alignment with the underlying permanent columns of the completed structure for the correct connection of the permanent columns even if the former permanent columns are misaligned slightly with the latter permanent columns in installing the former permanent columns.

Since the conical projections formed on the lower ends of the holding means engage the conical recesses formed in the upper ends of the permanent columns, the permanent columns are positioned easily and held stably, the support of the framework is reinforced and hence the earthquake resistance of the framework during the construction is improved.

Claims

1. A method of constructing a multistory building in ascending order of stories by sequentially repeating the steps of:
 - simultaneously extending extension columns (1,207) provided on a framework (3,203) placed on a completed structure (10,210) of the building to form a working space (14,214) over the completed structure;
 - sequentially and one at a time contracting the extension columns (1,207) to form spaces (15,215) for receiving permanent columns (6,206) therein between the framework (3,203) and the completed structure (10,210) and installing permanent columns in the spaces formed;
 - installing beams (7,260) between the adjacent permanent columns (6,206);
 - executing construction work in a structure formed by the permanent columns (6,206) and the beams (7,260) to complete the structure; and
 - sequentially repeating the steps in that order to construct the next upper structure.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the further step of installing permanent columns (206) in spaces between the completed structure (210) and holding means (201) provided on the framework (203);
 - wherein said further step occurs after the extension of the extension columns (207) and before the sequential contraction of the extension columns.
3. A construction apparatus comprising:
 - a framework (3,203) constructed above a completed structure (10,210) of a building and extension columns (1,207) provided on the framework (3,203), capable of extending downward to support the framework above the completed structure,

a working space (14,214) being formed between the framework (3,203) and the completed structure (10,210);

characterised in that the framework (3,203) comprises at least four of said extension columns (1,207) and in that each of said extension columns (1,207) are capable of being contracted independently of each other to provide spaces for installing permanent columns (6,206) on the completed structure (10,210).

4. A construction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said framework (3,203) is provided with a roof (16,216) for covering the working space (14,214).
5. A construction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said framework is a temporary framework.
6. A construction apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said framework is provided with a temporary cover (38,238) for covering the working space (14,214).
7. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 3 to 6, wherein said extension columns (1,207) are hydraulic cylinders.
8. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 3 to 7 further comprising construction means provided on the framework for construction work in the working space (14,214).
9. A construction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said framework (3,203) is mounted with a traveling crane (5,205) for detachably holding the construction means.
10. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 8 or 9 wherein the construction means is a column installing robot (9,209), a welding robot (4,204), a beam installing robot (291), or an external wall setting robot (292).
11. A construction apparatus according to claim 9 or 10 wherein said traveling crane (5,205) and said construction means are controlled on a cylindrical coordinate system.
12. A construction apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said traveling crane (5,205) and said construction means are controlled on a polar coordinate system.
13. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 3 to 12 wherein within said completed structure of the building is installed an elevator

permanent columns into alignment with the underlying permanent columns of the completed structure for the correct connection of the permanent columns even if the former permanent columns are misaligned slightly with the latter permanent columns in installing the former permanent columns.

Since the conical projections formed on the lower ends of the holding means engage the conical recesses formed in the upper ends of the permanent columns, the permanent columns are positioned easily and held stably, the support of the framework is reinforced and hence the earthquake resistance of the framework during the construction is improved.

Claims

1. A method of constructing a multistory building in ascending order of stories by sequentially repeating the steps of:
 - simultaneously extending extension columns (1,207) provided on a framework (3,203) placed on a completed structure (10,210) of the building to form a working space (14,214) over the completed structure;
 - sequentially and one at a time contracting the extension columns (1,207) to form spaces (15,215) for receiving permanent columns (6,206) therein between the framework (3,203) and the completed structure (10,210) and installing permanent columns in the spaces formed;
 - installing beams (7,260) between the adjacent permanent columns (6,206);
 - executing construction work in a structure formed by the permanent columns (6,206) and the beams (7,260) to complete the structure; and
 - sequentially repeating the steps in that order to construct the next upper structure.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the further step of installing permanent columns (206) in spaces between the completed structure (210) and holding means (201) provided on the framework (203);
 - wherein said further step occurs after the extension of the extension columns (207) and before the sequential contraction of the extension columns.
3. A construction apparatus comprising:
 - a framework (3,203) constructed above a completed structure (10,210) of a building and extension columns (1,207) provided on the framework (3,203), capable of extending downward to support the framework above the completed structure;

a working space (14,214) being formed between the framework (3,203) and the completed structure (10,210);

characterised in that the framework (3,203) comprises at least four of said extension columns (1,207) and in that each of said extension columns (1,207) are capable of being contracted independently of each other to provide spaces for installing permanent columns (6,206) on the completed structure (10,210).

4. A construction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said framework (3,203) is provided with a roof (16,216) for covering the working space (14,214).
5. A construction apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said framework is a temporary framework.
6. A construction apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said framework is provided with a temporary cover (38,238) for covering the working space (14,214).
7. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 3 to 6, wherein said extension columns (1,207) are hydraulic cylinders.
8. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 3 to 7 further comprising construction means provided on the framework for construction work in the working space (14,214).
9. A construction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said framework (3,203) is mounted with a traveling crane (5,205) for detachably holding the construction means.
10. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 8 or 9 wherein the construction means is a column installing robot (9,209), a welding robot (4,204), a beam installing robot (291), or an external wall setting robot (292).
11. A construction apparatus according to claim 9 or 10 wherein said traveling crane (5,205) and said construction means are controlled on a cylindrical coordinate system.
12. A construction apparatus according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said traveling crane (5,205) and said construction means are controlled on a polar coordinate system.
13. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 3 to 12 wherein within said completed structure of the building is installed an elevator



(31) for transporting construction materials in the internal space thereof and the elevator has a rotary floor to discharge the construction materials in an optional direction.

14. A construction apparatus according to one of claim 3 to 13 wherein a control room (32,232) is formed in the upper part of said framework.

15. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 3 to 14 further comprising a locking mechanism provided on the lower ends of the extension columns (207) and removably fitting the completed structure (210) of the building.

16. A construction apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said locking mechanism is fitted with the upper ends of permanent columns (206) previously installed and comprised in underlying completed structure (210) of the building.

17. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 3 to 16 wherein each of said permanent columns (206) has an engaging portion (206y) at the upper end thereof.

18. A construction apparatus according to claim 17, wherein holding means (201) are provided on said framework (203) and are capable of extending downward from the framework to position and hold the permanent columns (206) installed upright in the working space (214) at the upper ends thereof.

19. A construction apparatus according to claim 18, wherein each of said holding means (201) has a fitting portion (202x) at the lower end thereof opposite to the upper end of one of the permanent columns (206) for positioning each other.

20. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 17 to 19, wherein said permanent column (206) has a fitting end portion (206x) at the lower end thereof fitting the engaging portion (206y) of the other permanent column previously installed and comprised in the underlying completed structure (210) of the building.

21. A construction apparatus according to one of claims 17 to 20, wherein said locking mechanism has a fitting portion (208x) at the lower end thereof opposite to the upper end of the permanent column (206) to engage the engaging portion (206y) of the permanent column for positioning each other.

Patentansprüche

1. Verfahren zum Bauen eines mehrstöckigen Gebäudes in aufsteigender Reihenfolge der Stockwerke durch aufeinanderfolgendes Wiederholen folgender Schritte:
Gleichzeitiges Verlegen von Ausziehstützen (1,207), die an einem Rahmenaufbau (3,203) vorgesehen sind, der auf einem fertiggestellten Aufbau (10,210) des Gebäudes angeordnet ist, um einen Arbeitsraum (14,214) über dem fertiggestellten Aufbau auszubilden,
aufeinanderfolgendes und einmal zu einer Zeit erfolgendes Zusammenziehen der Ausziehstützen (1,207) zum Ausbilden von Räumen (15,215) für die Aufnahme permanenter Stützen (6,206) darin zwischen dem Rahmenaufbau (3,203) und dem fertiggestellten Aufbau (10,210) und Installieren permanenter Stützen in den so gebildeten Räumen,
Installieren von Trägern (7,260) zwischen den benachbarten permanenten Stützen (6,206),
Ausführen von Baumaßnahmen in einem Aufbau, der durch die permanenten Stützen (6,206) und die Träger (7,260) ausgebildet ist, um den Aufbau fertigzustellen, und
aufeinanderfolgendes Wiederholen der Schritte in der Reihenfolge, daß der nächste darüberliegende Aufbau ausgebildet wird.
2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, umfassend den weiteren Schritt des Installierens permanenter Stützen (206) in Räumen zwischen dem fertiggestellten Aufbau (210) und einer Halteinrichtung (201), die in dem Rahmenaufbau (203) vorgesehen ist, wobei dieser weitere Schritt nach dem Ausziehen der Ausziehstützen (207) und vor dem aufeinanderfolgenden Zusammenziehen der Ausziehstützen stattfindet.
3. Baugerät umfassend einen Rahmenaufbau (3,203), der über einem fertiggestellten Aufbau (10,210) eines Gebäudes angeordnet ist, und Ausziehstützen (1,207), die an dem Rahmenaufbau (3, 203) vorgesehen sind und nach unten ausgezogen werden können, um den Rahmenaufbau über dem fertiggestellten Aufbau abzustützen, einen Arbeitsraum (14,214), der zwischen dem Rahmenaufbau (3,203) und dem fertiggestellten Aufbau (10,210) ausgebildet ist, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Rahmenaufbau (3,203) wenigstens vier solcher Ausziehstützen (1,207) umfaßt und daß jede dieser Ausziehstützen (1,207) unabhängig von jeder anderen zusammengezogen bzw. verkürzt werden kann zum Ausbilden von Räu-



men für die Installation permanenter Stützen (6,206) auf dem fertiggestellten Aufbau (10, 210).

4. Baugerät nach Anspruch 3, wobei der Rahmenaufbau (3,203) mit einem Dach (16,216) zum Abdecken des Arbeitsraumes (14,214) versehen ist.
5. Baugerät nach Anspruch 3, wobei der Rahmenaufbau ein vorübergehender Rahmenaufbau ist.
6. Baugerät nach Anspruch 5, wobei der Rahmenaufbau mit einer zeitweiligen Abdeckung (38,238) zum Abdecken des Arbeitsraumes (14,214) versehen ist.
7. Baugerät nach einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 6, wobei die Ausziehstützen (1,207) hydraulische Zylinder sind.
8. Baugerät nach einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 7, wobei weiterhin Baueinrichtungen vorgesehen sind an dem Rahmenaufbau für Baumaßnahmen in dem Arbeitsraum (14, 214).
9. Baugerät nach Anspruch 8, wobei der Rahmenaufbau (3,203) mit einem Laufkran (5, 205) zum abnehmbaren Halten der Baueinrichtung versehen ist.
10. Baugerät nach einem der Ansprüche 8 oder 9, wobei die Baueinrichtung ein Roboter (9,209) zum Installieren einer Stütze, ein Schweißroboter (4,204), ein Roboter (291) zum Installieren einer Stütze oder ein Roboter (292) zum Setzen einer Außenwand ist.
11. Baugerät nach Anspruch 9 oder 10, wobei der Laufkran (5,205) und die Baueinrichtung auf einem zylindrischen Koordinatensystem gesteuert werden.
12. Baugerät nach Anspruch 9 oder 10, wobei der Laufkran (5,205) und die Baueinrichtung an einem polaren Koordinatensystem gesteuert werden.
13. Baugerät nach einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 12, wobei innerhalb des fertiggestellten Aufbaus des Gebäudes ein Aufzug (31) für den Transport von Baumaterial in den inneren Raum von diesem installiert ist und der Aufzug eine drehbare Bühne aufweist, um das Baumaterial in eine beliebige Richtung abgeben zu können.

14. Baugerät nach einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 13, wobei ein Steuerraum (32,232) im oberen Teil des Rahmenaufbaus ausgebildet ist.

15. Baugerät nach einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 14, umfassend weiterhin einen Sperrmechanismus, der an den unteren Enden der Ausziehstützen (207) vorgesehen ist und abnehmbar am fertiggestellten Aufbau (210) des Gebäudes angebracht ist.
16. Baugerät nach Anspruch 15, wobei der Sperrmechanismus an den oberen Enden der permanenten Stützen (206) angebracht ist, die vorher installiert wurden und in dem darunterliegenden fertiggestellten Aufbau (210) des Gebäudes angeordnet sind.
17. Baugerät nach einem der Ansprüche 3 bis 16, wobei jede dieser permanenten Stützen (206) einen Eingriffsabschnitt (206y) an deren oberem Ende aufweist.
18. Baugerät nach Anspruch 17, wobei Halteeinrichtungen (201) an dem Rahmenaufbau (203) vorgesehen sind, die sich von dem Rahmenaufbau nach unten erstrecken können, um die permanenten Stützen (206), die aufrecht in dem Arbeitsraum (214) an den oberen Enden davon installiert sind, zu positionieren und zu halten.
19. Baugerät nach Anspruch 18, wobei jede dieser Halteeinrichtungen (201) einen Paßabschnitt (202x) am unteren Ende davon dem oberen Ende einer der permanenten Stützen (206) gegenüberliegend zum gegenseitigen Positionieren aufweist.
20. Baugerät nach einem der Ansprüche 17 bis 19, wobei die permanente Stütze (206) einen Paßabschnitt (206x) an ihrem unteren Ende aufweist, der auf den Eingriffsabschnitt (206y) der anderen permanenten Stütze angepaßt ist, die vorher installiert wurde und in dem darunterliegenden fertiggestellten Aufbau (210) des Gebäudes angeordnet ist.
21. Baugerät nach einem der Ansprüche 17 bis 20, wobei der Sperrmechanismus einen Paßabschnitt (208x) an seinem unteren Ende dem oberen Ende der permanenten Stütze (206) gegenüberliegend aufweist, um mit dem Eingriffsabschnitt (206y) der permanenten Stütze zum gegenseitigen Positionieren in Eingriff zu treten.



Revendications

1. Procédé de construction d'un immeuble à plusieurs étages dans l'ordre croissant d'étages par répétition séquentielle des étapes comportant les opérations consistant à :
développer simultanément des colonnes d'extension (1,207) aménagées sur une ossature (3,203) placée sur une structure complète (10,210) du bâtiment pour former un espace de travail (14,214) au-dessus de la structure complétée ;
contracter séquentiellement et une à la fois les colonnes d'extension (1,207) pour former des espaces (15,215) pour y recevoir des colonnes permanentes (6,206) entre l'ossature (3,203) et la structure complétée (10,210) et installer des colonnes permanentes dans les espaces formés ;
installer des poutres (7,260) entre les colonnes permanentes adjacentes (6,206) ;
exécuter un ouvrage de construction dans une structure formée des colonnes permanentes (6,206) et des poutres (7,260) pour compléter la structure ; et
répéter séquentiellement les étapes dans cet ordre pour construire la structure supérieure suivante.
2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, comprenant l'étape suivante d'installation de colonnes permanentes (206) dans les espaces entre la structure complétée (210) et des moyens de maintien (201) ménagés sur l'ossature (203), dans lequel ladite étape suivante intervient après déploiement des colonnes d'extension (207) et avant la contraction séquentielle des colonnes d'extension.
3. Appareil de construction comprenant :
une ossature (3,203) construite au-dessus d'une structure complétée (10,210) d'un immeuble et des colonnes d'extension (1,207) aménagées sur l'ossature (3,203), capable d'extension de haut en bas pour supporter l'ossature placée au-dessus de la structure complète ;
un espace de travail (14,214) constitué entre l'ossature (3,203) et la structure complète (10,210) ;
caractérisé en ce que l'ossature (3,203) comprend au moins quatre desdites colonnes d'extension (1,207) et en ce que chacune desdites colonnes d'extension (1,207) peut être contractée indépendamment l'une de l'autre pour offrir des espaces pour l'installation de colonnes permanentes (6,206) sur la structure complète (10,210).
4. Appareil de construction selon la revendication 3, dans lequel ladite ossature (3,203) est pourvue d'un toit (16,216) pour couvrir l'espace de travail (14,214).
5. Appareil de construction selon la revendication 3, dans lequel ladite ossature est une ossature provisoire.
6. Appareil de construction selon la revendication 5, dans lequel ladite ossature est pourvue d'un dispositif de couverture provisoire (38,238) pour la couverture de l'espace de travail (14,214).
7. Appareil de construction selon l'une des revendications 3 à 6, dans lequel lesdites colonnes d'extension (1,207) sont des vérins hydrauliques.
8. Appareil de construction selon l'une des revendications 3 à 7 comprenant en outre des moyens de construction équipant l'ossature pour les travaux de construction dans l'espace de travail (14,214).
9. Appareil de construction selon la revendication 8, dans lequel ladite ossature (3,203) est montée avec une grue mobile (5,205) pour le maintien démontable des moyens de construction.
10. Appareil de construction selon l'une des revendications 8 ou 9, dans lequel le moyen de construction comprend un robot pour l'installation des colonnes, (9,209), un robot de soudage (4,204), un robot pour l'installation des poutres (291), ou un robot pour l'installation des murs extérieurs (292).
11. Appareil de construction selon la revendication 9 ou 10, dans lequel ladite grue mobile (5,205) et lesdits moyens de construction sont commandés à partir d'un système à coordonnées cylindriques.
12. Appareil de construction selon la revendication 9 ou 10, dans lequel ladite grue mobile (5,205) et lesdits moyens de construction sont dirigés à partir d'un système à coordonnées polaires.
13. Appareil de construction selon l'une des revendications 3 à 12, dans lequel un élévateur (31) est installé dans ladite structure complétée de l'immeuble, pour le transport des matériaux de construction dans l'espace interne correspondant, et selon lequel l'élévateur est pourvu d'un plancher rotatif pour décharger les matériaux de construction dans une direction op-



tionnelle.

14. Appareil de construction selon l'une des revendications 3 à 13, dans lequel une salle de commandes (32,232) est ménagée dans la partie supérieure de ladite ossature. 5
15. Appareil de construction selon l'une des revendications 3 à 14, comprenant en outre un mécanisme de verrouillage disposé aux extrémités inférieures des colonnes d'extension (207) assurant l'assemblage démontable de la structure complète (210) de l'immeuble. 10
16. Appareil de construction selon la revendication 15, dans lequel ledit mécanisme de verrouillage est monté aux extrémités supérieures des colonnes permanentes (206) préalablement installées et incorporées dans la structure complétée sous-jacente (210) de l'immeuble. 15
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17. Appareil de construction selon l'une des revendications 3 à 16, dans lequel chacune desdites colonnes permanentes (206) comporte une partie d'engagement (206y) à son extrémité supérieure. 25
18. Appareil de construction selon la revendication 17, dans lequel des moyens de maintien (201) sont placés sur ladite ossature (203) et sont extensibles vers le bas depuis l'ossature de manière à positionner et à maintenir les colonnes permanentes (206) installées verticalement dans l'espace de travail (214) aux extrémités supérieures de celui-ci. 30
35
19. Appareil de construction selon la revendication 18, dans lequel chacun desdits moyens de maintien (201) est pourvu en sa partie inférieure d'une partie destinée à la fixation (202x) en regard de l'extrémité supérieure des colonnes permanentes (206) pour le positionnement mutuel. 40
20. Appareil de construction selon l'une des revendications 17 à 19, dans lequel ladite colonne permanente (206) comporte une partie terminale de montage (206x) en sa partie inférieure coopérant avec la prise d'engagement (206y) de l'autre colonne permanente préalablement installée et comprise dans la partie inférieure de la structure (210) de l'immeuble. 45
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21. Appareil de construction selon l'une des revendications 17 à 20, dans lequel ledit mécanisme de verrouillage comporte une partie de montage (208x) en son extrémité inférieure, en regard de l'extrémité supérieure de la colonne 55

permanente (206) de façon à engager la prise d'engagement (206y) de la colonne permanente pour le positionnement mutuel.

