CLAIMS

1. A method of constructing a multi-level building having a predetermined number of levels, the method including the steps of:

a) setting and monitoring time periods and work cycles for completion of construction and installation tasks on a level-by-level basis;

b) selecting sub-contractors and, for each selected contractor, performing the following steps to comply with the time periods and work cycles set in step (a):

i. setting and monitoring time periods for obtaining measurements, plans and specifications of deliverables; and

ii. setting and monitoring sub-contractor timetables for selecting and sourcing materials, fabrication, delivery and installation;

iii. assignment of worker duties to coordinate with the sub-contractor timetables;

c) installing formwork for a set of two or more levels of the building;

d) releasably mounting a moveable protection system to the building, thereby to enclose at least part of the periphery of the set of two or more levels;

e) completing all critical internal and external construction and installation tasks of the lowest enclosed level of the set within the time period set in step (a);

f) thereafter raising the moveable protection system by a height substantially corresponding to one level of the building to enclose the next level above the previous set of levels, thereby defining a new set of enclosed levels;

g) installing formwork for the next enclosed level above the highest level of the lower set of levels;

h) repeating steps (e), (f), and (g) until step (g) is completed for the predetermined number of levels;

i) completing construction and installation tasks in regard to at least the external façade of the remaining enclosed levels.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the set of two or more levels in step (c) includes four levels.

3. A method according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the movable protection system encloses the whole of the periphery of the building.

4. A method of construction according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein step (e) includes one or more the sub-steps of completing:

i. external doors and windows;

ii. balcony railings;

iii. air-ledge railings;
iv. external plastering;
v. external trellis;
vi. external electrical works;
vii. external plumbing works; and
viii. aluminium formwork.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein step (i) includes the completion of all internal and external construction and installation tasks of the remaining enclosed levels.

6. A method of constructing a multi-level building having a predetermined number of levels, the method including the steps of:

a) releasably mounting a moveable protection system to the building thereby to enclose at least part of the periphery of two or more levels of the building and then accessing a materials delivery system from an enclosed level of the building through the movable protection system;

b) installing formwork on the uppermost enclosed level;

c) completing a fixed external barrier substantially around the lowest enclosed level, wherein the barrier includes an externally facing facade;

d) thereafter raising the moveable protection system by a height substantially corresponding to one level of the building; and

e) repeating steps (b), (c) and (d) until step (b) has been completed for the predetermined number of levels.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the materials delivery system is isolated from the protection system prior to step (c) to facilitate raising of the protection system.

8. A method according to claim 6 wherein step (a) includes connecting the materials delivery system to the moveable protection system.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein step (d) includes raising the moveable protection system with the materials delivery system connected thereto.

10. A method according to any one of claims 6 to 9 wherein the materials delivery system is a materials platform.

11. A method according to any one of claims 6 to 10 wherein step (d) utilises a crane or a hydraulic device for raising the moveable protection system.

12. A method according to any one of claims 6 to 11, wherein step (a) includes enclosing three or more levels of the building, and wherein the method includes an additional step (c1) performed between steps (a) and (d), step (c1) including performing intermediate construction activities on the at least one middle level of the at least three levels.

13. A method according to any one of claims 6 to 12, wherein the time required to installing formwork to completion of a level is within the range of 8 to 15 days.

14. A moveable protection system for use in constructing a multi-level building including:

means for releasably mounting the protection system to the building;

at least one protective screen for enclosing at least part of the periphery of two or more levels of the building that are under construction;

a supporting surface for bearing the weight of at least one worker;

shoes operable to rest on a level of the building that is under construction in order to substantially close a gap between the protective screen and the building at an access location between the supporting surface and the level of the building that is under construction;

means for raising the protection system with respect to the building; and

at least one openable section for facilitating access to a materials delivery system from an enclosed level of the building.

15. A moveable protection system according to claim 14 wherein the materials delivery system is insertable through the openable section.

16. A moveable protection system according to claim 14 or claim 15 wherein the materials delivery system is connectable to the moveable protection system.

17. A moveable protection system according to any one of claims 14 to 16 wherein the openable section is a hinged screen.

18. A moveable protection system according to any one of claims 14 to 17 wherein the means for raising the protection system is a hydraulic device.

19. A moveable protection system according to any one of claims 14 to 18 wherein the at least one protective screen is multi-perforate.

20. A moveable protection system according to any one of claims 14 to 19 including a plurality of screens connected together to form a safety barrier.

21. A moveable protection system according to any one of claims 14 to 20 including an aperture for accommodating a passenger lift.

22. A moveable protection system according to any one of claims 14 to 21 wherein the shoes are in the form of flip-down panels.

23. A method of constructing a multi-level building having a pre-determined number of levels, the method including the steps of:

a) releasably mounting a moveable protection system according to any one of claims 14 to 22 to the building thereby to enclose at least part of the periphery of two or more levels of the building;

b) installing formwork on the uppermost enclosed level;

c) completing a fixed external barrier substantially around the lowest enclosed level, wherein the barrier includes an externally facing facade;

d) thereafter raising the moveable protection system by a height substantially corresponding to one level of the building; and

e) repeating steps (b), (c) and (d) until step (b) has been completed for the predetermined number of levels.

24. A construction planning method, including the steps of setting dates associated with:

a) selecting sub-contractors including:

i. setting time periods for obtaining measurements, plans and specifications of deliverables; and

ii. setting sub-contractor timetables for selecting and sourcing materials, fabrication, delivery and installation;

b) starting and completing each cycle of construction;

c) assignment of worker duties to coordinate with the sub-contractor timetables;

d) sequencing construction steps to coordinate sub-contractor activities; and

e) carrying out the method according to any one of claims 1 to 13 or 23.

25. A moveable protection system according to any one of claims 14 to 22 for use in the method according to any one of claims 1 to 13 or 23 or 24.