[0006] The earlier systems use a number of horizontal support beams that are at spaced intervals along each of one or two floors. The horizontal support beams extend beyond the perimeter of each floor and support at their outermost ends a vertical column. Bracing members may extend from a rear portion of each horizontal support beam to each vertical column to thereby hold each column rigidly.

[0007] A safety screen is mounted moveably with respect to the array of vertical columns. In the above mentioned patent specifications, hoist or jack means are used to move the safety screen with respect to the vertical columns. In earlier versions of screen systems, a crane can be used to lift each individual safety screen.

[0008] The above described safety screens restrict access to the edges of the floors being screened, thereby preventing the performance of tasks such as post-tensioning of the concrete slab which forms the floor.

[0009] It is against this background and the problems and difficulties associated therewith that the present invention has been developed.

[0010] Certain objects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, wherein, by way of illustration and example, an embodiment of the present invention is disclosed.

SUMMARY

[0010a] The invention is defined in the independent claims. Further embodiments of the invention are defined in the dependent claims.

[0011] According to an embodiment, there is provided a safety screen assembly comprising a base for fixing with respect to a slab of a building, a frame means depending from the base so as to overhang an edge of the slab, and a safety screen depending from the frame means so as to be horizontally spaced apart from the edge of the slab, wherein the frame means is adapted to support a person in a position between the edge of the slab and the safety screen.

[0012] In one form, the frame means comprises at least one support platform positioned between the edge of the slab and the safety screen.

[0013] In one form, the frame means comprises a plurality of vertically spaced apart support platforms positioned between the edge of the slab and the safety screen.

[0014] A person or platform may be positioned either of above or below the slab but still be “between an edge of the slab and the safety screen” for the purposes of this specification.

[0015] In one form, at least one platform is a walkway. In one form, each platform is a walkway.

[0016] In one form, the frame means and the safety screen along with it, are movable vertically with respect to the base.

[0017] In one form, the base comprises a plurality of horizontal support beams adapted for fixing with respect to the slab, a plurality of vertical frame elements from which the frame means depends, each of which is respectively supported by a horizontal support beam so that each vertical frame element is positioned adjacent to an edge of the slab.

[0018] In one form, the frame means comprises a plurality of vertically spaced apart beams, each of which extends between vertical stringers.

[0019] In one form, the or each platform is supported by a plurality of the frame means' beams.

[0020] In one form, the safety screen depends from a plurality of the frame means' vertical stringers.

[0021] In one form, the frame means further comprises brace members extending diagonally between the vertical stringer so as to form trusses.

[0022] In one form, the safety screen is comprised of a plurality of safety screen panels.

[0023] In one form, at least one support platform comprises a means movable between at least a first position in which an opening in the platform is created, and a second position in which the opening in the platform is closed.

[0024] In a further embodiment, there is provided a safety screen assembly comprising a base for fixing with respect to a structure of a building, a frame means depending from the base so as to overhang an edge of a slab of the structure, and a safety screen depending from the frame means so as to be horizontally spaced apart from the edge of the slab, wherein the frame means is adapted to support a person in a position between the edge of the slab and the safety screen.

[0025] In a further embodiment, there is provided a safety screen assembly comprising a plurality of horizontal support beams adapted for fixing with respect to a slab of a building, a plurality of vertical frame elements, each of which is respectively supported by

a horizontal support beam so that each vertical frame element is positioned adjacent to an edge of the slab, a safety screen, and frame means depending from the vertical frame elements and supporting the safety screen so that the safety screen is horizontally spaced apart from the vertical frame elements and the edge of the slab in turn.

CLAIMS

1. A safety screen assembly comprising:

a base comprising a plurality of horizontal support beams adapted for fixing with respect to a slab of a building and a plurality of vertical frame elements, each of which is respectively supported by a horizontal support beam so that each vertical frame element is positioned adjacent to an edge of the slab;

a frame means depending from the base so as to overhang the edge of the slab;

a safety screen depending from the frame means so as to be horizontally spaced apart from the edge of the slab,

wherein the frame means comprises at least one support platform extending between the edge of the slab and the safety screen, the or each support platform for supporting a person in a position between the edge of the slab and the safety screen, where the or each support platform comprises at least one flap which is movable about a horizontal axis between at least a first position in which an opening in the platform is created, and a second position in which the opening in the platform is closed, and

a reciprocating jack and latch means configured to permit movement of the frame means and the safety screen upwards but not downwards.

2. The safety screen assembly of claim 1, wherein the frame means comprises a plurality of vertically spaced apart support platforms.

3. The safety screen assembly of claim 1 or 2, wherein the frame means comprises a plurality of vertically spaced apart beams, each of which extends between a plurality of vertical stringers.

4. The safety screen assembly of claim 3, wherein the safety screen depends from a plurality of the frame means' vertical stringers.

5. The safety screen assembly of claim 4, wherein the frame means further comprises a plurality of brace members extending diagonally between the vertical stringers so as to form trusses.

6. The safety screen assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the safety screen is comprised of a plurality of safety screen panels.

7. The safety screen assembly as in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the or each support platform comprises a walkway.