

Two jibs better than one?

New, radical ideas that have been floated in recent years include the GG crane, a twin jib model using mostly standard components but with jib tip propellers to power the slew, thus avoiding passing the structural stress of slew start ups and stops down the jib.

The concept originated about 40 years ago but a modern version made it into the iron at this year's Bauma. While many were intrigued by the radical nature of the concept, most were quick to spot the pitfalls of such a large tail-swing and slow to conjure up any real benefits.

A flourishing new idea

One new concept that really did take off very quickly was the Jost compact hydraulic luffers. Mounted to a standard tower the jib is luffed by a hydraulic cylinder rather than cables. The two point rigid connection between turntable and jib, as well as the fact that the counterweight is dynamic, allows

fair number of Magni S46 at work in congested city sites where nothing else will fit. Seeing demand growing as space becomes evermore limited, London-based City Lifting worked with Artic Crane in Sweden to develop a new version, the 84 tonne/metre Raptor 84. The first two cranes are currently working in London with a third due to arrive shortly. The advantages of the folding crane, long popular in dockyard applications, are the small out of service dimensions of just four metres and its ability to lift loads right in against the tower. This is an obviously advantage particularly if the only location for the crane is within the building's footprint.

The old and the new

A Tornborgs Magni S46 folding jib crane owned by Vertical Transport is seen below right working alongside two large Comedil luffing jib tower cranes on a new world class Cancer Centre building for the



The twin jib GG Crane with jib tip propellers to power the slew was a dominant exhibit at this year's Bauma

the crane to have an incredible out of service radius and avoid the risk of the jib blowing back over rear. The simple, easy to erect crane took off very quickly in those markets where over-sailing is an issue, mostly in the UK through distributor MTI.

A product that was ahead if its time?

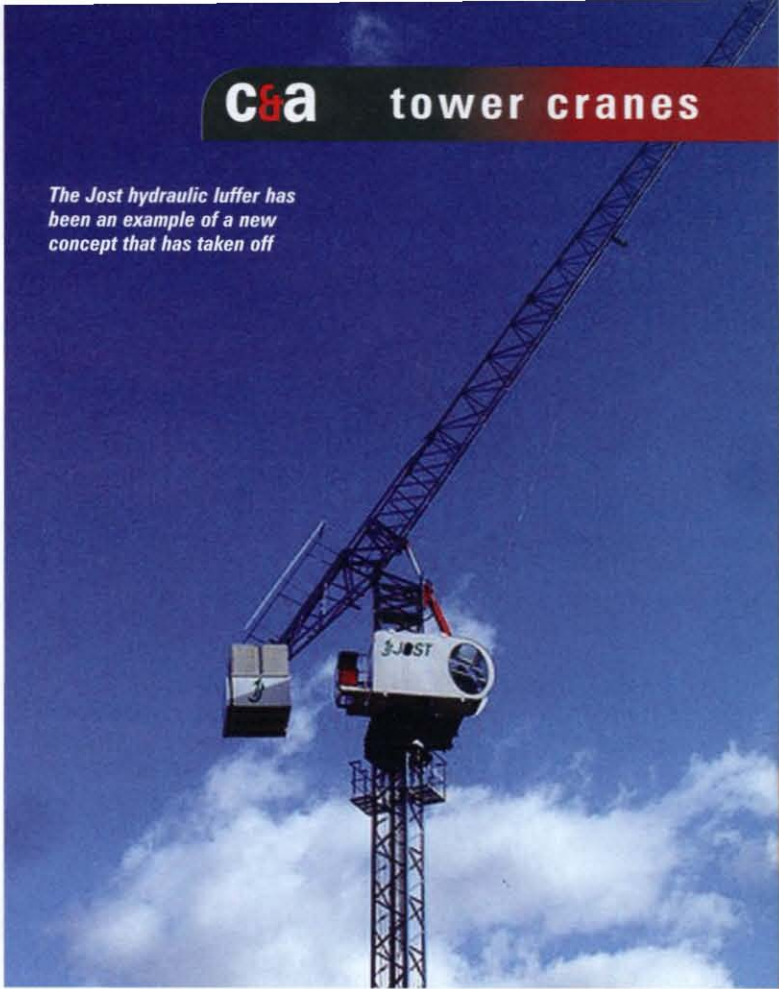
More recently an old concept - the articulated or folding jib crane - has re-emerged using modern technology. As with the topless concept this appears to have originated in Scandinavia when Tornborgs Maskinfabrik of Lindås in southern Sweden launched the Magni S46 46 tonne/metre crane in 1961 and dubbed it a jack-knife crane. Although the product sold well in certain markets, the last fabrications were made in 1982 but the last only assembled in 1991. In spite of their age there are still a



Artic Crane's Raptor brings a modern twist to the Magni S46

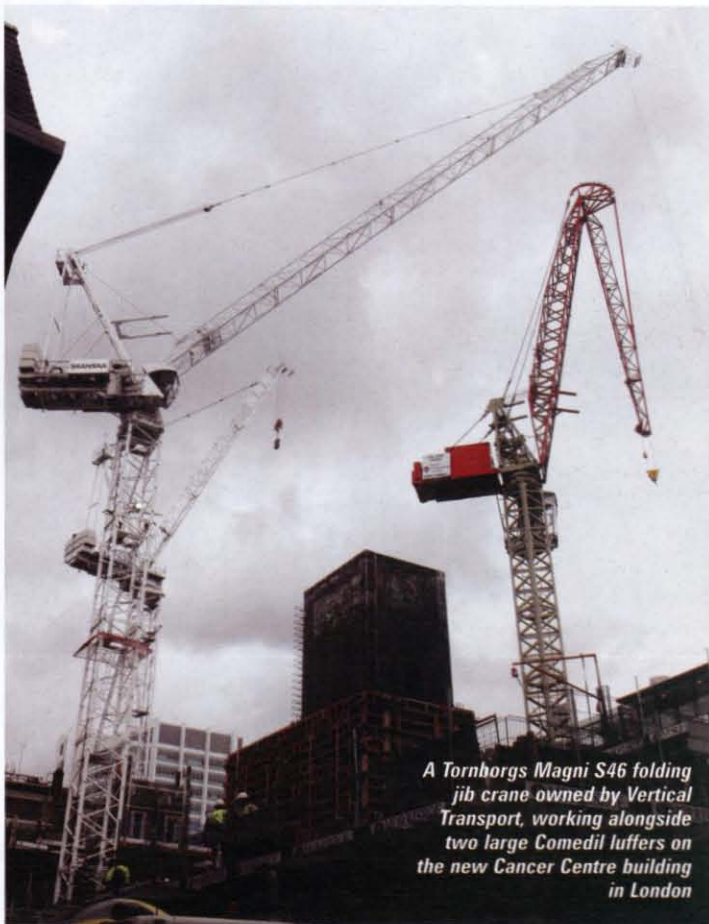
c&a tower cranes

The Jost hydraulic luffer has been an example of a new concept that has taken off



UCL Cancer Institute on Huntley Street, London. Located on the site of the former Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and Obstetric Hospital it will cover a gross internal floor area in excess of 14,800 square metres

and features an internal courtyard and atrium. Skanska will construct the building using a reinforced concrete frame which will include high quality bronze cladding and curtain wall system.



A Tornborgs Magni S46 folding jib crane owned by Vertical Transport, working alongside two large Comedil luffers on the new Cancer Centre building in London