

VIEW FROM THE TOP



Sean Cuddihy is a goat! And that's not a discourteous remark. It's the conclusion I came to having followed him to the top of Riyadh's first skyscraper. We got out of the cargo lift at about the 30th floor and while my legs turned to jelly just thinking about how far up we were, he scampered off up the scaffolding, sometimes on the outside of the building to get a better view over the city. Encouraging me ever upwards with remarks like "keep moving, don't be chicken" I was sweet-talked into reaching the very top level (far mere mortals anyway) from whence these images were taken.

For those of you who don't know him, Sean is Director of Engineering & Construction for the King Faisal Foundation, the "Owner" on the Al Faisaliah complex. And what a complex it will be. On the drawing board for over 6 years, the complex has a construction area of 240,000 m². The Tower portion

Speaking earlier this year, Lord Foster of Thames said, "The opportunity to create Saudi Arabia's first skyscraper was also a responsibility. I wanted to come up with a concept that was not only original but one the community would be proud of for years to come. This is being achieved thanks to the good working relations with the contractor Saudi Binlادن and the high quality of their work."



LOOKING WEST



of the complex will, for awhile at least, be Riyadh's tallest building next year at 267m high. According to Jasper Difazio, the Turners Project Manager this will put it somewhere in the forties on the list of the world's tallest buildings. It is slightly higher than Canary Wharf, Britains tallest building. Designed by Foster & Partners the complex looks set to open on schedule in the spring/summer of next year. In addition to the obvious tower, the complex includes a Conference Centre with a capacity of 4000 people, a 45,000 m² Retail mall, a 224 room 5-star Hotel and 100 luxury apartments.

