

Can it fit here?



A nicely designed support platform leaves the road below free for traffic and pedestrians.

The modern self erecting tower crane is a fantastic piece of equipment. It is amazing how compact a space they can fit into on a congested or awkward site. We bring you a few examples, one of which looks a little suspect.

Two examples illustrate how, pedestrian or even vehicular access can be left completely unobstructed by selecting the right crane and then placing it on a gantry type base.

In the first a classic steel structure engineered for the job, leaves the narrow street below open for all traffic. This format is very common place in southern Germany and Switzerland and yet relatively rare here in the UK or in Ireland. Possibly due to the fact that such self erectors are only now being looked at as a mainstream site handling tool.

The second example on the same theme was spotted in Freiburg, where a local contractor used concrete counterweight blocks to build a platform in order to leave the pedestrian walkway unobstructed. Considering this method looked a little "Heath-Robinson" in its execution, we sent the photo to Liebherr, the cranes manufacturer, for comment. Predictably they said that while the foundation looked a little suspect they could not comment unless they



Duck!

saw the calculations and knew the weights involved etc, not to mention the quality of the foundation for the first blocks. The wood panel that acted as an intermediate cover did not impress them.

The third example we have of fitting this type of crane into a congested space comes from Vanson Cranes.

The crane is working in a shopping mall setting. At ground level all shoppers see is a square advertising hoarding taking up a small space and not looking out of place at all. From the upper floors the contents of the box are revealed

it is hiding a self erecting tower crane. Thanks to radio remote controls and the cranes small footprint it can fit into the smallest of spaces.

On the ground floor all you see is an advertising box.



Look down from above and a crane is revealed.



A practical solution to keeping the pavement free perhaps, but we thought it looked a bit too home made!

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