



THE EXPRESS LIFT COMPANY LIMITED LIFT TESTING TOWER

Rising to a height of 127.5 metres (418 feet) above ground level, the Express Test Tower is a landmark for many miles around the Northamptonshire countryside. It is one of the tallest lift testing towers in the world, and will enable the advanced development of high speed lifts to be carried out.

Standing on a reinforced concrete raft some 24 metres in diameter and 3 metres thick, the tower is 14.6 metres diameter at the base, tapering to 8.5 metres at the top. The structure above ground level weighs 4,000 tonnes. During the continuous slip-forming of the outer shell, the tower grew at the amazing rate of 7.2 metres every 24 hours, much to the astonishment of local residents. To ensure reasonable stability in high winds, the top section of the tower has been designed to act as a 'spoiler', with irregular shaped through-holes to break up the vortex effect.

The commemorative cover and stiffener was designed by Bill Ellary.
The cover design shows the Lift Testing Tower dominating the skyline of Northampton.

The Express Lift Company, Abbey Works, Weedon Road, Northampton NN5 5BT.

The functional design of the tower allows for at least six testing facilities, a general purpose access lift and several complete floors for laboratory use. The high speed lift shaft will provide a travel of almost 100 metres, and will be serviced by an engineer's lift in the second shaft, travelling the height of the tower and giving access to all levels. A third lift shaft will be divided in its height into four separate parts to provide two training shafts for Company personnel, a hydraulic lift shaft and a medium speed lift shaft. Provision is also made for the type testing of various lift equipment for use by all lift manufacturers.

The Test Tower is an essential part of the Express Lift Company's progressive and continuous development programme.