

One Airport Square nears completion

Laurus Development Partners has indicated that the multi-million dollar retail and shopping complex, One Airport Square, will be completed on schedule in October this year after the developers last week undertook a milestone topping-out exercise.

As per the construction industry tradition, a topping-out ceremony is usually held when the last roof concrete slab is laid at the top of a building.

The CEO of Laurus Development Partners, Carlo Matta, said the concrete works on the US\$62million project has been completed without any injury to its 320 construction workers.

"The ceremony is symbolic and is an opportunity to show appreciation to the Ghanaian construction workers who have worked relentlessly for the past 20

months to ensure the building's unique structure was completed on time.

"The building is not yet complete, but we are done with the concrete structure. To have finished the structure on time and accident-free during the two years of construction at the structure is a big achievement that we are very proud of," he said.

Located in Airport City, One Airport Square -- designed by Italian architect Mario Cucinella -- will comprise more than 30,000 square metres of office, retail and car parking space when it is completed. The development will have an open piazza to encourage social interaction and the hosting of small events for the local business community.

The project, when completed, will be the first green-certified commercial building in the country as the building will

use natural light and ventilation, consume about 35 percent less energy, and incur lower operating and maintenance costs than other similar buildings.

Fusing tradition with pioneering green solutions, its concrete and glass exterior was inspired by the diamond-patterned bark of Ghana's palm trees and traditional decorative facades.

"This building will use less power, less air-conditioning and less water than the typical building in town.

"We want to raise the bar and show that making architectural icons and buildings makes good business sense, because in the long-term a good architectural design and striking building can hold the value better and can attract the best tenants in the market. That is why we hired an architect who is specialised in green-buildings," he said.

