

## Whoops

It wasn't even Friday the 13th but I know one builder in Varna who probably thought it was. As I stood on the office balcony enjoying the sunshine there were a group of builders working on the renovation of a nearby shop and office. They appeared to be struggling with the concept of constructing a gable end that was anything close to a straight line to fit the roof to, and after several attempts using bricks

position on the opposite side of the slope and started to drive nails through this as well, except in their excitement to solve this problem, which by now had occupied most of the morning and with lunchtime quickly approaching, they forgot the bricks they had previously put up had only been in position for a few hours. The end result as they reacted with mounting horror was the slow outward collapse of the

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and mortar one of their number jumped in a van and drove off, returning some ten minutes later with some lengths of timber sticking out the back and parked the van close to the building. Several of his colleagues then came down and helped carry the timber through the building to re-appear a few minutes later on the top floor and set the timber down on the floor. The van driver, who was obviously some sort of foreman then appeared, and proceeded to instruct the others on how he wanted the timbers fixed, one timber was duly fixed to one side of the gable end using what I can only describe as 12 inch nails driven through the timber and bricks, they then filled the gaps with mortar and stood back with great satisfaction to admire their handy-work at finally achieving a result that now resembled a straight line. It was obviously decided that this solution to their in-ability to get a straight line with bricks and mortar was acceptable, so they then lifted the next timber into

complete gable end, and gravity being what it is, the bricks and timbers gathering pace in their journey to the ground below. From my position on our balcony I watched as bricks rained down on the van now parked below, and to add insult to injury one of the timbers speared its way straight through the windscreen and was sticking straight up like an accusing finger at the builders now grouped around the non-existent gable end looking down at the resulting carnage, their van now sporting several large dents and a scattering of bricks as well as a large timber embedded in the front screen. I could hear the shouting and moaning from where I was as everybody accused everybody else of being the cause of the collapse and the foreman just sat with his head in his hands. One week later and the van has not moved, there is a large hole where the timber went through and the gable end is still waiting to be built. Oh well that's Bulgaria!!

## The Mega Borovets Project

Armed with pure enthusiasm and new ideas, the ambitious project Super Borovets is expected to change the whole scenery in the region of central Rila Mountain.

The project concept providing for an overall development and modernization of the resort, the nearby town of Samokov, and the area of Beli Iskar, was originally pursued to build up the countries potential to apply for hosting the Winter Olympics in 2014. The concept for the construction of Super Borovets has already received a green light from the Sofia Governor and the members of the special working group dealing with the mega project. All future innovations seek to find alternative options for overcoming the seasonal nature of local tourism and extend the capacity of winter tourism in Bulgaria. The concept, furthered by the special working group on the project, plans the construction of a special 7,000-bedspace village, social communication centre, entertainment sites, shopping centres, winter

sports facilities, swimming pools, tennis courts and golf courses.

Though Mega Borovets is likely to enter the second stage-that of actual construction-as early as in 2007, foreign investors have already shown keen interest in joining the project. Two Italian companies have already reiterated their interest in Borovets. 'Leitner' is to supply the ski-lifts and another company 'Techno Alpine' can equip the mega resort with artificial snow dispersing facilities.

But later on the Mega Borovets project fell under the attack of Bulgarian eco organisations, days after the plan was approved a number of tourism and ecology organisations (the Association for Alternative Tourism, Eco-Rila-Samokov, Ecology Association 'For the Earth' and others) have insisted on introducing changes in the initial project. They believe the innovations will interfere with the harmonic co-existence of intensive tourism and nature itself, the matter is still under consideration and decision is expected soon.



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