

NEW CONSTRUCTION AT SYRIAN SITE
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Satellite imagery taken January 9, 2008 obtained from DigitalGlobe shows new construction at the site in Syria bombed by Israel in early September 2007. The destroyed building was widely reported to be a nuclear reactor under construction. The new building has dimensions of approximately 60 meters by 60 meters, larger than the destroyed building, which had dimensions of about 47 meters by 47 meters. In addition, the roof on the new building is vaulted at the top instead of flat. The height of the new building was not determined.

The building's purpose cannot be discerned from the satellite imagery. There are trenches and what appear to be pipe sections, east of the building (away from the river). The trenches and pipes can be seen in the imagery for several kilometers. The trenches end at a site that may be a water treatment facility.

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei has sought permission from Syria to inspect the site, but so far Syria has denied the IAEA access to the site. If Syria allows the IAEA to inspect the site, the inspectors will have a more difficult time looking for evidence of reactor construction, because the new building covers whatever was left of the original building.