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The historic Bahnhofstrasse 3: renovation begins

Medienmitteilung

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The spectacular renovation of the commercial building at Bahnhofstrasse 3 in Zurich begins these days. It is spectacular because a completely new, contemporary building is being created behind the historic, listed façades. Due for completion in 2024, the building will have a positive impact on urban development in the heart of Zurich. With this project, Baugarten Zürich is implementing a public-oriented architectural concept that does justice to the prominent location between the upper Bahnhofstrasse, Bürkliplatz and the lakeshore.

Implementing carefully planned architectural and engineering work

Bahnhofstrasse 3 has always played an important role in Zurich's history: the city's first stock exchange was housed in this building. Since its origins, the building and its functions have changed repeatedly.

The existing structure is 90 years old and has reached the end of its service life. From the outset, Baugarten Zürich was clear that it wanted to realise a project of the highest architectural and urban quality. The invited competition was therefore held with renowned participants, and the expert jury ultimately chose the project by Studio Märkli Architekten.

The project respects the building's historic heritage. The listed façade from the 1930s will be preserved, and its proportions will be continued in the contemporary additional storeys. Once completed, the building will reach the same height as the neighbouring buildings. A private design plan was drawn up and unanimously approved by the Zurich City Council in June 2019. Baugarten Zürich submitted the building application in October 2019 and received the legally binding building permit in November 2020. In line with this schedule, demolition work now begins.

Upgrading the upper Bahnhofstrasse and Bürkliplatz

With this new building, Baugarten Zürich sets an important urban accent for the city and enlivens the upper Bahnhofstrasse. The new Bahnhofstrasse 3 will house both retail and office space. The city will use the planning-related added-value levy to upgrade the area around Bürkliplatz and make it more attractive.

The Genossenschaft zum Baugarten Zürich as client

The renovation of the prominent property at Bahnhofstrasse 3 helps Baugarten Zürich, as a non-profit institution, to continue making substantial contributions to social, cultural and scientific projects in the city and canton of Zurich. Baugarten Zürich Genossenschaft und Stiftung is a Zurich institution with a long tradition that dates back to 1799. The «Hülfsgesellschaft» founded in Zurich at that time gave rise in 1805 to the «Ersparniscassa» and later the Sparkasse der Stadt Zürich. After the banking business was sold to Zürcher Kantonalbank in 1990, the cooperative established the Baugarten Stiftung. Since then, it has devoted itself entirely to non-profit activities. Hans G. Syz, President of the Board of Directors, and Kaspar E.A. Wenger, Director, bear responsibility.

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+41 58 312 88 88
fanzun.swiss

Further information about Baugarten and the building at Bahnhofstrasse 3 is available at www.baugarten-zuerich.ch

Author: Die Genossenschaft zum Baugarten Zürich

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