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THE MUNICIPALITY OF MILAN AND UNIPOLSAI PRESENT THE GALFA TOWER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

**The authorization process has been concluded
Work will begin in January 2016 and will be completed by the end of 2017
The total investment by UnipolSai amounts to approximately €100m**

The curtain is raised on the redevelopment project that will revive the GalFa Tower, the 103-metre skyscraper built in 1959, designed by the architect Melchiorre Bega.

The aim of UnipolSai, shared with the Municipality of Milan from the very beginning, is to restore and enhance one of the most important icons of modern architecture, which after years of neglect will return to be a symbol of excellence in the city.

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During the presentation of the project held at the Urban Center in Milan, speakers included Ada Lucia De Cesaris, Deputy Mayor of Milan with responsibility for Urban Planning and Private Construction, Gian Luca Santi, General Manager of UnipolSai Real Estate and Diversified Companies and the architect Maurice Kanah from the firm bg&k associati, who oversaw the redevelopment project.

“This project represents another important goal achieved by the Municipality within the scope of our policy of regenerating existing unused assets. It is symbolic that it involves precisely the GalFa Tower, since we promised the presentation of a redevelopment project for the same in the short term,” pointed out the Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Urban Planning and Private Construction of the Municipality of Milan, Ada Lucia De Cesaris.

“After 16 years of non-use – stated Gian Luca Santi, General Manager of UnipolSai Real Estate and Diversified Companies – the GalFa Tower will once again be a symbol of the city. Neglect and abandonment disfigured its image, distorting its high architectural value. Thanks to the involvement of Unipol, the redevelopment of this historical building has been made possible, which will feature mixed functional purposes with cutting edge criteria for the optimization of space.”

The GalFa Tower, which has a total gross area of 27,000 square metres, will be used for hospitality/hotel purposes (12,000 square metre area extending from the -1st floor to the 12th floor where there will be a new Melià Group hotel) and residential purposes (13,000 square metre area from the 13th to the 31st floor) with dedicated services (car park, garage, meeting and conference rooms, restaurant and fitness area) and separate entrances.

The project is committed to maintaining the image of the tower as it was designed by the architect Bega to return the building to the collective memory of the city, emphasizing the original features of the project such as, for example, the elegant glass curtain wall which makes the supporting structure of the building appear further back than its outer edge and thus “invisible”.

The cornerstones of the project are summarized in the desire to preserve the elegance of the structure, to give the building an energy-efficient casing and the desire to give the street level space back to the community, providing an important opportunity for the redevelopment of the entire block.

The outdoor area in front of the building will host the volume of the crystal cube enclosing an elevator in order to access level -1 of the spiral staircase “without barriers”. The open space where the cube will be located has been designed as a gathering and meeting point for activities in the area.

The GalFa Tower

Designed by the architect Melchiorre Bega, the GalFa Tower was built between 1956 and 1959 to host the Milan offices of the oil company Sarom. The building, which immediately won the approval of important designers, is 103 metres tall and consists of 31 floors, to which 2 underground levels will be added. The name GalFa originates from its location: the building is situated at the intersection of Via Galvani and Via Fara (Galvani + Fara), in the heart of the business centre between the Pirelli skyscraper and the recent Palazzo Lombardia, both offices of the Lombardy Region.

The GalFa Tower was sold to Banca Popolare di Milano in 1980, which abandoned the same in 2001, when the tower became completely vacant, to then sell it in 2006 to Fondiaria-SAI, now UnipolSai, the current owner of the building.

As soon as the building became available, the Unipol Group, which acquired Fondiaria-SAI in 2012, began studying the redevelopment and enhancement of the same, as well as the urban space, together with the Municipality of Milan.

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