

Procuratie Vecchie

Venice, Italy 2017–

Beyond being one of the most recognisable squares in the world, Piazza San Marco is an extraordinary and explicit demonstration of ordered public space. The Procuratie Vecchie, which developed along the entire north side of the square, was designed by the architect Bartolomeo Bon and later by Jacopo Sansovino in the first half of the sixteenth century, under the renovatio urbis programme of Doge Andrea Gritti. It established the classical language adopted by the subsequent developments on the square.

The commission from the Italian insurance company Generali, a company that began its life in these buildings, is to both renovate, unpick and make sense of generations of modification and practical adaptation, and to bring the buildings into a more engaged relationship with the city. The proposals will facilitate the activities of The Human Safety Net, a charitable arm of Generali while, for the first time in 500 years, a large part of the Procuratie Vecchie will be made accessible to the public.

The project is not defined by a single concept or architectural gesture, but by a series of interventions that address the complexity of the work. These include the restoration of the first and second floors, the reorganisation of accessibility and usability of the building through the inclusion of new staircases, and the renewed central entrance on the third floor with access to the raised courtyards. The third floor will include exhibition spaces open to the public and linked to The Human Safety Net, as well as workspaces and an auditorium.

Competition	2016
Project start	2017–
Gross floor area	5,200 m ²
Client	Generali Real Estate SpA – SGR
Architect	David Chipperfield Architects Milan
In collaboration with DCA team	David Chipperfield Architects Berlin Simone Diego Alessi, Pietro Bagnoli, Thomas Benk, Adolfo Berardozzi, Cristiano Billia, Cecilia Bottoni, Niccolò Brussa, Teresa Cancellari, Marta Capacciola, Filippo Carcano, Francesca Carino, Carlo Federico Cattò, David Chipperfield, Andrea Cocco, Fabiano Coccozza, Maria Elena Codazzi, Federica Corrà, Stefano Goffi, Tsukasa Goto, Nicola Guercilena, Juan Laborda Herrero, Seunggeun Jee, Eugenio Matteazzi, Daniel Mira García, Sofia Nobis, Brigid O'Donnell, Tommaso Meena, Stefano Penazzi, Matthijs Sioen, Tiziana Staffieri, Wouter Verstraete, Maria Chiara Virgili, Giuseppe Zampieri, Federica Zerbo, Carlo Zucchia
Local architects	Franco Gazzarri Architetto, TA Architetture, Zero4Uno Ingegneria
Project coordinator	Generali Real Estate SpA – SGR, Artelia
Structural and services engineer	Arup
Lighting consultant	Viabizzuno
General contractor	SACAIM



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