Press release

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fischer fixing solutions secure Venice's Procuratie

A building with a past and a future

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Large parts of the Procuratie Vecchie (Old Procuracies) in Saint Mark's Square, Venice, are being opened to the public for the first time in 500 years. The aim is to strengthen the connection between the famous building, the town and its visitors. The Procuratie palace has been restored over five years. fischer's fastening products were used to reinforce ceilings and replace old fastenings such as wooden pegs and riveted joints as well as for many other applications.

Three connected buildings known as the Procuratie surround Saint Mark's Square in Venice. The Procuratie Vecchie (Old Procuracies) are located to the north, the Napoleonic Wing lies to the west and the Procuratie Nuove (New Procuracies) lie to the south. They served as the residences and offices of the procurators of Saint Mark. These city officials held the second-highest positions in the Republic of Venice, second only to the doges (heads of state). Their task was to manage the assets of Saint Marks' Basilica and entailed responsibility for executorships, foundations, city planning and administration as well as issuing construction contracts. The Procuratie Vecchie were erected in the first half of the 16th century under Doge Andrea Gritti. After 500 years, the three-storey building measuring 152 m in length was restored together with its facade consisting of arcades and friezes over the course of a

comprehensive project, which involved redefining an internal gross floor area of 12,000 m². Parties involved in the project included the Generali Group insurance company as the owner of the building, David Chipperfield Architects (Berlin/London/Milan/Shanghai) and the general contractor RDE Sacaim SpA (Venice). They were supported by the fischer Group of Companies, which provided a series of fastening products ideally suitable for the various restoration tasks, including the restoration of the first and second floors where the insurance company's offices are located.

The accessibility and usability of the rooms were reorganised while the third floor was fully renovated. This storey houses The Human Safety Net, an international, social initiative by Generali that provides support to disadvantaged people. Public access to the exhibition spaces, workspaces, event spaces, an auditorium and a café were created on the third floor. Several traditional, Venetian artisan craft techniques were used during the restoration work, including terrazzo on the arches that open up towards the walls, pastellone flooring, whitewashed brick surfaces, marmorino and Venetian plaster.

Due to the project's tremendous significance, a great deal of skill and expertise were required for its architectural design as well as during the selection of the products for its thorough and careful restoration. Sacaim SpA, which has operated in Venice since 1920, was primarily responsible for these tasks. This general contractor has previously worked with the fischer Group of Companies on numerous projects. fischer supplied the fastening solutions for the restoration work. Daniele Penzo, an engineer at Sacaim SpA, explains: "It was a very unique project which involved using the same methods that were used centuries ago during the construction of the Procuratie Vecchie because of the construction's conditions and the planner's

requirements”. Two monumental stairways were made entirely of timber, for instance, while individual bricks were laid in the walls by hand. Around 200,000 bricks were used for the stairs alone.

“The new ceilings were all built with timber. Several original ceilings were renovated by adding timber pieces to the ends of the beams and by restoring the boards”, Daniele Penzo states. “These ceilings were made earthquake-proof, and their load-bearing capacity was adapted by using specialist screws, metal connections and by safely distributing forces and loads”. The fischer PowerFast II screws were used for this purpose along with the perforated fischer bracing tape XBWB, which is available in Italy. Old fastenings, such as wooden pegs and riveted joints, were replaced with fischer’s heavy-duty fixings such as the fischer injection mortar FIS EM Plus, which offers excellent structural properties.

The restoration of the Procuratie Vecchie is part of Generali’s 190th anniversary celebrations as well as the large-scale restoration initiative of the area surrounding Saint Mark’s Square, which includes the recently reopened Royal Gardens. The building served as the insurance company’s Italian headquarters up until 1989. Generali will move back into the Procuratie Vecchie after its restoration. Thanks to the project’s successful completion, the building’s history can be preserved while the Procuratie Vecchie can be opened to the public for the first time and transported into the future with a new lease of life.

Image captions:

Image 1
Venice has gained another attraction. The Procuratie Vecchie, which surround the entire north side of Saint Mark's Square, have been redeveloped over an area of 12,000 m². The building has opened its doors to the public for the first time, offering room for exhibitions and events. It also houses a centre for disadvantaged people.

Images 2 and 3
Restoration of the Procuratie Vecchie in October 2021: The historic building was converted into 12,000 m² of space and thus further transferred into the future.

Image 4
The Old Procuraties are one of the main tourist attractions in Venice. Until now, however, it was only possible to visit the exterior. Now that the extensive restoration project has been brought to a successful conclusion, tourists can look behind the façade for the first time.

Images 5 - 7
A glance behind the historical facade. Following a large-scale restoration project, the public can access the Procuratie Vecchie for the first time. fischer fixing solutions make a significant contribution to its secure hold in future.

Image 8
Continuing centuries of history. Thanks to the successful completion of the restoration project, the Procuratie Vecchie now represent Venice's past and future. fischer fixing products were used for many applications in the restoration project.

Images: fischer

The fischer Group of Companies

The fischer Group of Companies, headquartered in Waldachtal in Germany's northern Black Forest, generated sales of 988 million euro in 2021 with a worldwide staff of 5,400 employees. The family-owned company operates 50 subsidiaries in 38 countries and exports to more than 120 countries. It includes the five divisions: fischer fixing systems, fischer Automotive, fischertechnik, fischer Consulting and fischer Electronic Solutions.

fischer fixing systems is the technological market leader in key areas of fixing technology. fischer offers products that deliver technical perfection to a wide range of customers, from do-it-yourselfers to tradespeople to key account partners.

fischer Automotive manufactures high-quality parts for vehicle interiors. The company is highly competent in the plastics processing segment and is an important partner for the automotive industry. Its range of products includes air vents, cup holders, trays and multi-function components.

With its construction kits, fischertechnik is active in both the toymaking and the educational sector. fischertechnik is one of the last remaining toy makers to exclusively develop and produce in Germany.

fischer Consulting evolved from the competence developed in the company itself, which includes the fischer ProcessSystem with its central aim of permanent improvement for the ultimate benefit of the customer. fischer Consulting advises small and medium-sized businesses, government agencies and major companies on their path towards lean and efficient processes.

fischer Electronic Solutions develops and manufactures electronic solutions including product and system developments based on the latest technology as well as custom production orders processed in the company's own production facilities. As an experienced provider of development and production services for custom systems such as multi-touch solutions made of glass and the corresponding controller units, fischer Electronic Solutions forms the perfect link between the customer and the final product.

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