

Paris, May 26th, 2021

Galleries Lafayette Group completes the restoration of its Haussmann flagship's iconic dome

Galleries Lafayette Haussmann's famous dome will be returned to its full splendour this spring, after over two years of extensive renovations. The restoration of this Art Nouveau treasure – one of the largest refurbishments ever undertaken by the Boulevard Haussmann flagship store – was overseen by Citynove, the group's real-estate asset management business. The store's glass dome, which was erected in record time in 1912, was a collaboration between three renowned artists. Ferdinand Chanut was responsible for the geometry and structure, Jacques Grüber for the stained-glass panels and Louis Majorelle for the ironwork. To this day, the dome, or "Coupole", continues to be admired by the department store's 37 million annual visitors, and is one of the French capital's key attractions.

The dome was in much need of modernisation and restoration, since over a century of expansions and refurbishments – especially the addition of more floors and electric and plumbing installations – had considerably reduced the amount of natural light entering the building through the glass dome. As well as flooding the department store with daylight again, restoration work included extensive waterproofing. The dome was also fitted with programmable lighting and motorised hoisting points so it can be used most effectively to stage events.

The unprecedented makeover took place in various phases and followed a strict timeline. In the first phase, which was completed in October 2020, the stained-glass panels were dismantled for restoration and temporarily substituted with white glass. In the second phase, which was finished in April 2021, the old structure was taken down and replaced with the new one. To avoid disrupting life inside the department store, all the work was carried out at night. The project was managed by Perrot & Richard Architectes.

Commenting on the renovation, Galleries Lafayette group Image and Communications Director Guillaume Houzé, said: *"The 'Coupole' encapsulates Galleries Lafayette's historic values and desire to offer visitors a unique blend of creation and commerce. It is a symbol of innovation, expertise, and rich cultural heritage. This large-scale project, which ensures the dome continues to reflect its epoch and the history of our retail family business, was completed thanks to the unique know-how of exceptional craftsmen and women. Today, I would like to deeply thank them heartily for their efforts throughout these two years. We are delighted to unveil the new face of this Art Nouveau treasure to our visitors and to Paris."*

The dome in figures



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About Galeries Lafayette group

Specialised in city-centre fashion retailing, the Galeries Lafayette group is a family-run private group, with 125 years' history in commerce and retail. A key player committed to provide the best possible experience in retail and creation and a major private employer in France with 14,000 employees, the Group is committed to setting the standard as an omni-channel and responsible retailer that puts the customer first and is actively engaged in promoting the French "Art of Living". With retail sales of Euros 4.5 billion, the Group enjoys international recognition through its iconic brands: Galeries Lafayette, BHV MARAIS, La Redoute, Eataly Paris Marais, Galeries Lafayette-Royal Quartz Paris, Louis Pion, Mauboussin and BazarChic. The Group supports the brands in their asset, digital and creative transformation through Citynove and Lafayette Anticipations - Galeries Lafayette Corporate Foundation.

More information on groupegalerieslafayette.com, on LinkedIn, on Instagram (@groupegalerieslafayette) and on Twitter (@Galeries_Laf)

About Galeries Lafayette Paris Haussmann

Galeries Lafayette Haussmann has been the beating heart of the French capital since its opening in 1894. As the first European department store in terms of sales, This flagship store and its famous Art Nouveau dome are the epitome of creative energy and the spirit of the times, hosting over 2,000 brands from all around the world. This legendary "World store" is both a trend-setter and a benchmark for its 37 million annual French and international visitors alike, striving above all to provide them with a place for knowledge-sharing, influence and culture.

More information on haussmann.galeriesslafayette.com

About Citynove

Citynove manages and adds value to the property assets of the Galeries Lafayette group, by developing innovative projects. Asset Management operations help to reinvent physical store retailing through urban, environmental, cultural and social revitalisation in city centres throughout France.

More information on citynove.com and on Facebook