

Europejski without secrets

Revitalization of the legendary Europejski Hotel in Warsaw, considered one of the most prestigious construction projects of the current year, intrigues with its mystery. The latest edition of the Builder Exclusive is dedicated to this unique project and presents the Europejski from a previously unknown perspective.

– The Europejski is a great and unique history, a real jewel of the Polish architecture and a huge investment project in one. Our goal was to bring former glory back to this icon of Warsaw architecture to make it a landmark of the capital city again and a symbol of what is best about Poland, for both Varsovians and guests from around the world. Together with the Builder Exclusive, we unveil unknown details of work on the restoration of the Europejski, creating a collection that, I hope, will become a source of information for both architecture enthusiasts and professionals – says Julien Barbotin-Larrieu, President of the Management Board of H.E.S.A. Sp. z o.o. Sp. k.

The story about the Europejski project will be told by the creators of the concept themselves – H.E.S.A. Sp. z o.o. Sp. k., the owner and investor of the Europejski, as well as architects from SUD Architectes, Boris Kudlička as well as WWAA and APA Wojciechowski.

Readers will not only be able to learn about the smallest details of the entire architectural and reconstruction process, but they will also find out more about the advanced technologies specially adapted for this project.

The renovation of the Europejski was a huge challenge for the contractors and the producers. They were expected the highest possible precision at each stage of the project, and the number of teams working simultaneously

at the construction site was just unbelievable. The companies had to demonstrate outstanding quality and experience in order to meet the high expectations of the investor, as well as the requirements of future users of the building – starting from Raffles Hotels & Resorts, a prestigious hotel chain, ending up with tenants of the hotel's office and boutique spaces. You will read about the details of all the challenges in the publication presenting a number of facts and curiosities that have not been published before.

– *This edition of the Builder Exclusive is a carefully prepared case study, which is an excellent comparative tool of the world's best practices and architectural and construction standards. Since the best construction and production companies were presented in the publication, it was particularly fascinating for our team to have this opportunity to tell the story of their contribution to the Europejski project.* – says **Michał Grocki**, Managing Editor, the Builder Exclusive.

All photographs in the publication have been prepared on special request of the publisher and the investor. They have been taken by Juliusz Sokołowski, a well-known artist and a nestor of Polish architecture photographers. What distinguishes Sokołowski's works is the fact that he does not stylize reality because, as he says: *For a photographer, reality is always surprising and beautiful. A photographer shouldn't hierarchize what is better or prettier – everything is equally important.*

The Builder Exclusive – Europejski is a bilingual publication. It has been published in Polish and English and is addressed not only to readers in Poland but also abroad.

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The Europejski – former the Europejski Hotel – was built in stages between 1855 and 1877 on the Royal Route based on the design by Henryk Marconi. For over 160 years, the building has been a silent witness to the history of Warsaw, as well as to the most important events in the history of Poland. The revitalization works started in 2014, carried out in close cooperation with the local and regional historical preservation officers, have restored the building's former splendour, giving the hotel a new life. Today, the Europejski is home to a five-star hotel of Raffles Hotels & Resorts, Raffles Europejski Warsaw and the largest private collection of the Polish contemporary art in Poland which includes over 450 works of more than 120 artists, as well as commercial and office spaces. The Europejski combines the best pre-war traditions and elegance with the art of design of the 21st century. It is a unique representation of the Polish culture to the

world and, at the same time, one of the most popular meeting places of Warsaw residents.

The Builder Exclusive / Europejski – a special publication presenting carefully selected facilities that could inspire architects, contractors and investors. The current edition, entirely dedicated to the reconstruction of the Europejski, shows that the technological solutions available on the market today give architects and investors great possibilities for unlimited creation.

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