

## **Architectural competition**

### **Plans for new building from architects MRLV allow public access to Central Plaza Hamburg**

Architects MRLV (Markovic, Ronai, Voss) have won first prize in the architectural competition to find an infill blueprint for the site of the Central Plaza Hamburg office block in Hamburg's Neustadt area. The competition was held by Union Investment Real Estate AG, whose Unilmmo: Deutschland fund owns the property. MRLV's plan for the new Central Plaza Hamburg building impressed the jury due to its urban planning concept and layout for the exterior space, with excellent through access to the site. "The urban environment will be enhanced by making a dynamic structural statement, which – together with the existing high-rise block and the remaining open space – will create a new and compelling city centre location. Crucially, this urban island will be linked to neighbouring parts of the quarter by providing excellent access that opens off the inner plaza," explains Aleksandar Ronai of architects MRLV. The new building will accommodate modern offices, shops and restaurants/cafés as well as a significant number of high-quality apartments on Valentinskamp. The plans include green spaces with newly planted trees, paved areas where people can stroll and relax, plus a special water feature and lighting in the courtyard of the new building. Wide steps will create an attractive entrance to Central Plaza Hamburg from the direction of Gänsemarkt. A carefully structured set of pathways links the

Central Plaza's green and leisure areas with the neighbouring streets and parks as well as the Musikhalle.

The building's three- to four-storey underground car park will cover all Central Plaza Hamburg's parking needs. Union Investment will commence work on the new building in parallel with refurbishment of the high-rise block in 2009.

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