

Top stories from EGi

Gagosian in Mayfair frame

Grosvenor has been given the green light by Westminster council to convert Savills' former Mayfair HQ into an art gallery for Larry Gagosian. Work on the TateHindle-designed plans to convert the first-floor office space at 20 Grosvenor Hill, W1, into a 24,000 sq ft gallery will start in January, completing in 2015.

Duo charged in fraud case

The Serious Fraud Office has charged two former partners of insolvent property company Arck with fraud and forgery offences. Kathryn Joy Clark and Richard Aston Clay allegedly created and marketed unregulated financial products that were made available to individual investors through regulated independent financial advisers. It is estimated that £60m was invested in these products.

W1 HQ in stars for Zodiac

Ship management company Zodiac Maritime Agencies has signed a 20-year lease for a new West End headquarters at 2 Portman Street, W1. The firm is taking 17,600 sq ft at the Kinloss Property building, paying £70 per sq ft. James Andrew International acted for Kinloss Property.

Green REIT hires O'Buachalla

Green REIT has appointed Niall O'Buachalla as chief operating officer of Green REIT Property Ventures, the Irish property company's investment manager. O'Buachalla, who has 10 years' experience in the sector, will take up the role from 6 January 2014.

Savills in South Africa tie-up

Savills has signed a strategic alliance with South African real estate adviser 5th Avenue Properties. The partnership will see the firms collaborate on international corporate real estate services across South Africa for offices and industrial. 5th Avenue specialises in transaction management, advisory and corporate real estate services.

Legal warning over Elephant village

NICK WHITTEN

Boxpark founder Roger Wade has fired a legal warning to Lend Lease over its plans for a pop-up arts village in Elephant & Castle, SE1.

Lawyers acting for Wade have written to the Australian developer warning over the use of sea containers and the term Boxpark to create a pop-up village.

Lend Lease submitted plans to Southwark council in the summer for a temporary shopping and arts village designed by Harper Downie, called The Artworks Elephant.

Wade opened Boxpark, the UK's first mall built of sea containers, in Shoreditch, E1, in 2011.

He said: "We have made Lend Lease aware that the Boxpark intellectual property rights are protected under UK and EU law.

"We will be vigorously defending our IP rights. But I would stress that we are trying to resolve this amicably."

Lend Lease does not intend to use the term Boxpark and the developer stresses that the only similarity between its scheme and Wade's is the use of sea containers.

The Artworks Elephant will offer a range of refurbished shipping containers for hire for designers and creative businesses, along with a café and bar.

A decision on the proposal is expected soon and Lend Lease hopes to launch the project in early 2014. The aim is to provide a temporary use for parts of the Heygate Estate while Lend Lease's £1.5bn regeneration is carried out.

Sea containers have been used to house retail and leisure uses around the world, including for a pop-up shopping village in Christchurch, New Zealand, after the 2011 earthquake.

In February this year, Allied London hired Manchester-based Kiostructures to provide 15 portable pop-up retail kiosks at Hardman Square (23 February, p42).

COVENTRY REVEALS £40M HQ PLANS

Coventry city council this week unveiled images for its proposed 100,000 sq ft headquarters. The Allies and Morrison-designed £40m office block will kick-start development at the 3.2m sq ft Friargate project. The council plans to move most of its operations to the new building, saving £800,000 a year in running costs. A planning application was submitted last month and, subject to consent, work will start on site next year. Friargate is a 15-year phased regeneration project developed by the Friargate Coventry partnership between Cannon Kirk and the council. GVA is advising.



Titchen quits Qatari Diar for luxury resi player

The UK head of development at Chelsea Barracks owner Qatari Diar has left the business.

Jeremy Titchen has quit to become a director in Mayfair-based development management consultant Walton Wagner, which specialises in luxury residential projects.

His departure is the latest in a number of changes at Qatari Diar, the Qatar Investment Authority's property arm. Former UK chief executive John Wallace left in March and was

replaced by senior development manager Michael Patrizio.

Titchen joined in 2008, when Qatari Diar was scaling up its UK team to handle the delivery of Lord Rogers' controversial masterplan at Chelsea Barracks, SW1, and looking for further London opportunities.

When that plan was withdrawn, he led the appointment of the new masterplan team headed by Squire and Partner and the planning and consultation process, which culminated

in outline consent being granted in December 2011.

"I've enjoyed my five years at Qatari Diar and feel proud of what I have achieved, particularly Chelsea Barracks," he said.

Titchen's new role will see him reunited with Jane Wagner. Both of them were development directors at Grosvenor for many years.

Walton Wagner was founded with former Candy & Candy operations manager Nick Walton in 2010.