HafenCity Hamburg at Expo Real 2013: more than 2,500 homes/apartments planned or under construction

HafenCity Hamburg GmbH is present once again this year at Expo Real in Munich. With almost 40,000 visitors and some 1,700 exhibitors, it is one of the world’s leading commercial property fairs. Between 7 and 9 October 2013, HafenCity, lead partner on the shared stand of the City of Hamburg and state of Schleswig-Holstein, will not only be presenting the next important development steps in central and eastern HafenCity but also spotlighting the many high-quality residential building projects. A total 2,500 apartments are currently planned, under construction or being put out to tender in HafenCity. At the same time, the diversity of HafenCity is increasing.

HafenCity, Europe’s most significant inner-city waterfront and downtown project, continued to make big strides in 2013. As a “new downtown”, its diversity steadily increases. It is also unmistakeably evolving into a place of knowledge: HafenCity University (HCU) will be ready within a few months, bringing new life into HafenCity in early 2014 with its around 2,000 students. In September, Kühne Logistics University KLU and MSH Medical School Hamburg moved into their newly completed building on Grasbrook. The completion of the Elbe Arcades at the heart of HafenCity during the next few weeks adds up to much more than the addition of an outstandingly sustainable building. Its design is creating new urban quality by mingling exhibition space (Greenpeace, designport hamburg, the permanent exhibition “The Flood”) with a variety of users, and amalgamating living and working. This combination makes the building a prototype for urban development for some time to come.

HafenCity is also growing increasingly green. Just a few weeks after its opening, the innovative Grasbrookpark play park has already become a place of pilgrimage for parents and children from all over the city. At the same time, the completed south and north sections of Lohsepark are bringing its contours to life. The development of Oberhafenquartier into a dynamic place for the arts and creativity is also coming on apace. Bids on an additional 6,000 sqm space for creative users are currently being called for; it should be in use from mid-2014. At the same time, small catering and exhibition and presentation spaces will help to reinforce the public functions of the quarter.
This qualitative diversity of HafenCity development goes hand in hand with new projects underpinning it at many levels: construction for three new office users commences in the next 12 months, as well as a new hotel venture. The infrastructure is developing alongside: the extension of the U4 to the Elbe bridges is of particular importance. The U4 line is already operating to the stations at Überseequartier and HafenCity University. The way forward for development – and thus the buildability – of eastern HafenCity was also secured through the completion of the 170m Baakenhafen bridge: it represents the starting gun for realisation of around 3,000 residences in the eastern part of HafenCity.

HafenCity’s greatest progress has been in the area of home-building. More than 2,500 housing units are currently either in the planning stage or being realised in such outstanding sites as Strandkai (including three 55m residential towers), in the north of Überseequartier, by Lohsepark and on Baakenhafen harbour basin. At the same time, for the spectacular residential area of Baakenhafen, expressions of interest have been invited by the end of November to build at least 720 apartments with a mixed use concept – including four large buildings to be constructed actually in the harbour basin waters. All of these homes will be built to fulfil the criteria of the gold HafenCity Ecolabel and combine high urban quality with ecological sustainability.

Commenting on these developments in the context of Expo Real 2013, Jürgen Bruns-Berentelg, CEO HafenCity Hamburg GmbH, said: “HafenCity has firmly established itself as an outstanding inner-city residential location. Here a new living culture is evolving, with strong contacts to neighbours and a new take on work-life balance. In HafenCity families with children in particular, but also households in general, find that working and living can be admirably combined.”
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