

COMMERCE

LVMH wins court battle over construction of La Samaritaine

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Interior renovations of La Samaritaine

By STAFF REPORTS

Luxury conglomerate Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton is continuing its renovation of La Samaritaine thanks to a final ruling from the Conseil d'Etat authorizing the controversial project.

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Over the past 10 years LVMH has been attempting to convert the former department store into a luxury complex including a hotel, duty-free shopping, designer stores, offices, affordable housing and a day care center. While some groups have opposed the renovation, leading to extensive delays, this latest ruling allows LVMH to continue construction for good.

Final decision

Earlier this year, a Parisian court of appeals prohibited LVMH from continuing its construction of the building. Residents in the neighborhood have expressed concerns about the modern structure that LVMH has planned for the location.

Ultimately, LVMH plans to include a building designed by a Japanese architecture firm that will feature a modern façade of undulating glass. At the same time, however, it will

work to restore the landmarked Art Deco façade of a separate building on the premises.



Plans proposed by LVMH for La Samaritaine

The project is expected to cost \$508.6 million and take three years to complete. In the end, it will directly create 2,200 jobs and provide affordable housing and childcare.

LVMH has previously undertaken large-scale architecture projects. In 2014, the Frank Gehry-designed Louis Vuitton Foundation opened on Oct. 27, letting the public view its 11 galleries that promote 20th and 21st century artistic and creative movements.

CEO Bernard Arnault's art patronage is well known, and this commission of the foundation, conceived in 2006, demonstrated a top-down commitment to the arts in LVMH. Located in the north of Paris, the 126,000 square foot foundation acts as a nexus for the conglomerate's artistic activities ([see story](#)).

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