

RETAIL

Galleries Lafayette to open in Shanghai

January 16, 2018



Galleries Lafayette is looking towards further international expansion. Image credit: Galleries Lafayette

By STAFF REPORTS

French department store chain Galleries Lafayette is expanding its presence in China with plans for its second flagship in the nation.

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The retailer has signed a lease for a store in Shanghai, which is set to open late in 2018. The company is pushing into more emerging global markets, with this latest announcement marking the start of an accelerated expansion into China.

Going global

Galleries Lafayette is partnering with I.T. Limited to open a location in Shanghai Pudong Mall.

Spanning four floors and about 270,000 square feet, the store will retail merchandise that ranges from affordable to luxury, hoping to draw in young shoppers. The selection will also be international, with a mix of labels from China, France and around the globe.

For the project, Galleries Lafayette tapped London-based architects HMKM, who also worked on the retailer's Beijing flagship. HMKM has also done retail projects for Harvey Nichols, Dunhill and Harrods, among other clients.



Exterior of Galeries Lafayette's Beijing store. Image credit: HMKM

“China is one of the priority countries for international development and we are very pleased to strengthen our presence in this country with the opening of a new showcase for our know-how in Shanghai,” said Nicolas Houzé, CEO of Galeries Lafayette and BHV Marais, in a statement.

“Building on the success of our first flagship store in Beijing, we believe more than ever in the potential of our brand to serve our Chinese customers,” he said. “We have set an ambitious goal to ourselves for the coming years: to open a dozen physical stores by 2025 in the six largest cities of the country, and to accelerate our influence on Chinese digital platforms.”

Galeries Lafayette Group is shuffling its senior management team to simplify the organization and support necessary for a number of strategic projects currently underway, including its international expansion.

To better prepare for its global retail push, Galeries Lafayette has also established a dedicated international development division within the executive committee. The international development division will be headed by Philippe Pedone, currently chief financial officer and executive member.

As it stands, Galeries Lafayette has been proactively expanding its footprint in China and the Middle East. This new division would further the retail group's international aspirations outside of France for both the Galeries Lafayette and BHV Marais banners ([see story](#)).

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