



Topshop to play its part on Opera Avenue

International retail giant, Topshop, is coming to Cork as one of the anchor tenants in the O'Callaghan Properties' Opera Avenue project.

Its arrival will be a massive boost for the €500 million development currently being built across two city centre blocks bordered by Academy St./St. Patrick's St./Emmet Place and Faulkeners Lane.

Topshop is a leading global retail brand and one of the most popular fashion stores in Ireland. While it has operated a number of concessions in Cork previously, this is its first shop in the city. Occupying 25,000 sq.ft. fronting on to the Emmet Place side of the project, the retailer is a major catch for the development.

Said O'Callaghan Properties' managing director, Owen O'Callaghan: "We are delighted that we have signed Topshop. It's a tremendous endorsement of the city centre as a location for flagship retail activities and confirms our faith in the project in the first instance. We have always held the view that Opera Avenue would lift the whole retail offer in Cork and Topshop's arrival will be the first of many leading names to site in the development. There has been a pent up demand from major retailers to come to the city centre but prior to Opera Avenue, the floor plate they desired was simply not available. At a time when retail is facing a lot of challenges right now, this is good news for the future and is a ringing endorsement for Cork."

Topshop offers a wide range of clothing, accessories and footwear choices and sells an average of 6,000 pairs of jeans and 35,000 pairs of shoes every week. The company's fashion credentials have been bolstered over the last number of years with the addition of several fashion lines that have quickly developed a cult following and include Maternity, Mini Topshop, Vintage, Tall and Petite among others.

Specialist designer ranges including Kate Moss for Topshop along with collections by designers Emma Cok, Richard Nicoll, Ann-Sofie Back, Markus Lupfer have also increased the store's popularity.

Topshop's owners, the Arcadia Group, already have a presence in Cork through their Dorothy Perkins and Evans stores on Patrick's Street.

Retailer interest in Opera Avenue is very strong according to O'Callaghan Properties.. "Other lettings are progressing very satisfactorily and have a strong focus on fashion. We will be making other announcements in the near future." said a spokesman

Opera Avenue will see the addition of in excess of 200,000 sq. ft. of retail to the city centre, the construction of 61 apartments and the creation of the first new residential and retail street in Cork city centre in over two hundred years.

Over 1,400 full-time and part-time jobs will be created within the retail complex and 500 jobs will result from the construction phase. A large portion of the supplies, materials and labour for the project are being sourced locally.

The transformation of Faulkener's Lane into a spacious and vibrant retail thoroughfare linking St. Patrick's Street and Emmet Place is a key feature of the redevelopment of two blocks of the city centre core which the project entails.

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