



## **Assicurazioni Generali: restoration work begins on the Procuratie Vecchie in St Mark's Square**

Venice, 4 November 2009. Restoration work has begun on the Procuratie Vecchie, the sixteenth-century complex of buildings on the north side of St Mark's Square, where Assicurazioni Generali's Venetian offices are located. This is one of the most extensive restoration projects undertaken in the square in recent years, and involves the restoration-conservation, cleaning and consolidation of the building facades.

The work, headed by architect Gretchen Alexander, will take around two years and is the culmination of analyses and surveys conducted by a team of university specialists working in close cooperation with the Venice Superintendency.

The restoration has been made possible as the result of an agreement among the 28 co-owners of the building, who in May this year formed a "super condominium" headed by Assicurazioni Generali, the largest property owner at the Procuratie Vecchie.

*The **Procuratie Vecchie** extend for 152 metres along the north side of St Mark's Square, from the Clock Tower to the Napoleonic Wing, and consist of a 50-arch portico surmounted by two storeys with 50 windows each. Like the Procuratie Nuove, they take their name from the fact that they housed the offices of the procurators of St Mark. The earliest building, in the Venetian-Byzantine style, was constructed in the Twelfth Century and re-built in 1538.*