

Basel, Thursday, 5/6/2021

## PRESS RELEASE

### Burckhardt+Partner conclude refurbishment of Coop headquarters in Basel

**Burckhardt+Partner have performed a complete refurbishment of the national headquarters of major Swiss retailer Coop in Basel in their capacity as architects and general planners. The work on the building, which dates back to the 1970s, was completed in April. The refurbishment, carried out while the building remained in service, included a complete renovation of the façade, a partial renovation of the building services, and a redesign and reorganization of the office areas. This will extend the building's service life by another 30 to 40 years.**

The refurbishment is an impressive example of a project that succeeds in preserving elements that lend to the character of the building, renders the latest technology visible and adopts a contemporary architectural idiom: "It was important for us to approach the existing architecture in a deliberate, respectful manner," says Samuel Schultze, CEO of Burckhardt+Partner.

Typical design features of the original building, such as the exterior concrete façade supports, were preserved. New photovoltaic elements make up the parapet cladding, underscoring the façade's layered appearance. "The new façade is a perfect example of how sound design can also be sustainable," says Joos Sutter, Chairman of the Coop Board of Directors. The photovoltaic system covers around ten percent of the building's electricity requirements. Here Burckhardt+Partner were able to combine high design specifications with technology and sustainability requirements.

The properties of the existing building interior – the column-free floor plan and well-proportioned usable space – were retained and improved, while the remodeling of the office areas increases the number of workspaces by around a third. The absence of exterior frames in the new large-format glass windows boosts the panoramic effect of the windows and creates bright, light-filled rooms that make for a pleasant working atmosphere and spectacular views. "The refurbishment succeeded in optimizing the office space whilst improving the working environment, which we see as a huge plus," says Christian Coppey, Head of Property Business Unit at Coop.

To allow the building to remain in service throughout the refurbishment, the high-rise building was renovated floor by floor from top to bottom. The construction site was only accessible via exterior scaffolding hoists and platforms. "Completely refurbishing a high-rise office building while it remains in service is like performing open-heart surgery. It called for a high degree of professionalism and day-to-day awareness of the people inside during planning and site management. Burckhardt+Partner performed exceptionally in all phases of construction," says Joos Sutter, Chairman of the Coop Board of Directors.

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### **About Burckhardt+Partner**

Burckhardt+Partner are an internationally distinguished and technologically prominent architectural company. It was founded in 1951 in Basel and has continued to develop ever since. Over the past 70 years, Burckhardt+Partner have not only had a major influence on architecture in Switzerland, but have also been able to compete on the international stage. Burckhardt+Partner currently run five branches in Switzerland and three in Germany.

### **About Coop**

Firmly rooted in Switzerland, the Coop Group can look back on a history spanning over 150 years. What began as a small consumer cooperative is now an international retail and wholesale business, employing approximately 91 000 people. The Coop Group has various sales formats plus wholesale and manufacturing companies.