

## A large kitchen island with a HIMACS worktop forms the bold centrepiece of this spectacular loft



**HIMACS, the solid surface material, in the iconic shade of Alpine White, was chosen for the surface of the kitchen island in this completely renovated former ballet school converted into a private home in Kerkstraat in the heart of Amsterdam's arts district.**

Renowned architecture firm, Standard Studio, along with Brandsing Meubelmakers, a company specialising in furniture and renovation, was commissioned to carry out the complete transformation of a highly unusual space: a former ballet school located in the urban area of Kerkstraat in Amsterdam. This residential project represented a professional challenge due to the **authentic characteristics of the original space**, coupled with the owners' desire to build a homely, comfortable and warm house.

The owners of the property, a young family of three, commissioned the renovation project aimed at creating a modern, open-plan area offering ample space to share with family and friends, while also providing a certain degree of privacy.

With the owners' requirements in mind, the main challenge was to preserve the charm of the original building, retaining the ceilings, which are around 5 metres high, and the brightness of the building, but avoiding the starkness that such an open space can impart. To this end, the designers at Standard Studio and the expert team

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from Branding Meubelmakers decided to use the property's advantages and bring together the living areas: kitchen, living room and dining room, in a single large, well-lit space with a practical and accessible layout. In contrast with the walls, ceilings and HIMACS worktop, which are subtle light tones, the furniture was chosen in vibrant and striking colours, which visually help to make the home more welcoming, while amply reflecting the lifestyle of a young and cosmopolitan family.



The transformation was largely achieved by removing a load-bearing wall separating the living room and photographic studio. Removing this structural barrier enabled the two areas to be merged while letting in plenty of light. The use of materials such as solid oak and decorative elements such as plants also helped create a warmer, more cosy ambiance. Thanks to the height of the ceilings, it was possible to create a second level to lend the living room greater privacy and insulation from street noise. To increase the feeling of open and airy space, Standard Studio designed the loft with the bare minimum of doors, where they are necessary they used subtle, unobtrusive examples.

The kitchen area was designed to promote conviviality, and the **HIMACS Alpine White shade sets off the worktop of the extraordinary large island**. With its sober, elegant design, combined with an attractive wooden base, the HIMACS

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worktop acts as the nerve centre of this home, fusing the robustness and marked character of an industrial style space with the attractiveness and casualness of a warm and appealing decorative element.



Thanks to the hygienic properties of HIMACS, this kitchen worktop provides a completely smooth work surface that is both ideal for preparing food and extremely simple to clean. In addition, the complete seamlessness of LX Hausys' acrylic stone prevents the accumulation of dirt and the build-up of bacteria, making this material the perfect choice for busy environments such as a kitchen, in which strict hygiene measures are crucial.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT**

**Project:** Private kitchen

**Location:** Kerkstraat, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Design by:** Standard Studio

**Furniture maker:** Brandsing Meubelmakers

**HIMACS supplier:** Baars & Bloemhoff

**Worktop used for the kitchen island:** HIMACS S028 Alpine White - [www.himacs.eu](http://www.himacs.eu)

**Photo credits:** Wouter van der Sar Photography

## HIMACS Solid Surface

[www.himacs.eu](http://www.himacs.eu)

HIMACS is a solid surface material that can be moulded into any shape. It is widely used for architectural and interior applications, such as sculptural and high performance wall-cladding or kitchen, bathroom and furniture surfaces, in commercial, residential and public space projects. It is composed of minerals, acrylic and natural pigments that come together to provide a smooth, non-porous and visually seamless surface which meets the highest standards for quality, aesthetics, fabrication, functionality and hygiene – offering manifold advantages over conventional materials.

HIMACS provides limitless possibilities for surfacing solutions and inspires creative minds from all over the world. **Zaha Hadid, Jean Nouvel, Rafael Moneo, Karim Rashid, Marcel Wanders** and **David Chipperfield**, among others, have completed fabulous projects using HIMACS.

At the forefront of innovation as always, LX Hausys recently introduced two new products. First **HIMACS Ultra-Thermoforming**, an innovative formula that pushes the boundaries of solid surface shaping to a whole new level, with 30% more thermoplastic capabilities - the biggest innovation for the Solid Surface history since its inception in 1967. Now, **HIMACS Intense Ultra**, combining the characteristics from two disparate worlds: **Intense Colour Technology** and **Ultra-Thermoforming**.

HIMACS uses a simple heating process to give three-dimensional thermoplastic forming capabilities, allows visually seamless designs, offers a virtually limitless range of colours and – for some shades - exhibits a special translucency when exposed to light. Although HIMACS is almost as robust as stone, it can be worked in a similar way as wood: it can be sawn, routed, drilled or sanded.

HIMACS is manufactured using a new generation technology, the **thermal cure**. The temperature reached during the manufacturing process sets HIMACS apart from other solid surfaces and creates a denser, even more homogeneous, sturdy, durable surface – with a better resistance and superior thermoforming performance.

HIMACS does not absorb humidity, is highly resistant to stains, and is easy to clean, maintain and repair.

Countless internationally recognized certificates attest to the quality of HIMACS in terms of ecological commitment, hygiene and fire resistance – being the first Solid Surface in the market to receive the official **European Technical Approval (ETA) for façades** – for Alpine White S728 colour. Furthermore, HIMACS has obtained the French **QB certification** and **CSTB ATec “Avis Technique”** for facade applications.

HIMACS offers a 15-year warranty for products fabricated by a Quality Club Member.



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\* **HIMACS** is designed and produced by **LX HAUSYS (formerly LG Hausys)**, a world leader in the technology sector belonging to LX Holdings Corp.