

Life Sciences Hub in Cardiff Bay

HI-MACS® to inspire a 'collision between people and ideas'



Reception area

The new Life Sciences Hub in Cardiff Bay, Wales is part of the Welsh Government's strategy for the growth of the Life Sciences sector in Wales which is a co-working concept to stimulate interaction, innovation, networking and collaboration with the objective of facilitating jobs and investment.

Paramount Interiors Ltd were appointed to undertake the design and fit-out of the Life Sciences Hub Wales at the location in Assembly Square and decided that a part of the solution to the brief – aimed at whole of the Life Sciences sector, including academic, business, clinical and fund raising organisations – was to create inspiring settings where 'people and ideas can collide'.

The project was started from a clear floor area where the only restriction in the design was working with an existing chilled beam system. With previous experience of projects on other levels of the building, Paramount had a good idea of what was achievable in terms of design to realise the Hub's aim.

Highly bespoke designs and hi-tech materials were implemented into the design including the supremely flexible solid surface HI-MACS® –a natural stone set in an acrylic matrix - that can be visually seamlessly joined and thermo-formed into practically any three dimensional shape.

The reception area creates a stimulating ambiance for staff and visitors and includes a polished stone and HI-MACS® Toffee Brown welcome desk, as well as 'scaled-up' test tubes and back-lit panelling. The entrance to this area is eye catching with a preserved moss wall, silver birch timbers and the Hub logo. The tree area is encased with 6mm HI-MACS® in Arctic White while all other HI-MACS® components are formed from 12mm panels.

The reception area leads off to areas of activity and collaboration – a **coffee bar, soft seating areas** and a main feature for encouraging discussion and the sharing of ideas: a **Multi Media Pod**, a bespoke element giant-iPad-like which was designed to be integrated into a HI-MACS® table top with part of the top and the return leg in Midnight Grey. On the supporting leg of this intriguing interactive table HI-MACS® has been again used in Lemon Squash colour. Adjacent to this exciting zone is a presentation area in auditorium style with a full AV broadcasting facility.



Multi Media Pod

On the other side of the floor is an open plan work area surrounded by meeting rooms designed to foster collaboration with a combination of informal, open 'drop-in' one-to-one areas and a boardroom with splendid views over Cardiff Bay.

The Life Sciences Hub name and logo are displayed throughout the scheme along with large graphic wall coverings displaying cell structures and other scientific imagery.

The entire design including careful selection of materials like HI-MACS®, succeeds in creating a focal point for businesses offering visitors, clients and staff an inspiring work setting with the latest technology making the Life Sciences Hub an extremely pioneering project.

Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PoG7Ui702nA>



PROJECT:

Life Sciences Hub

business.wales.gov.uk/lifescienceshubwales

Client:

Welsh Government

Location:

Cardiff Bay, Wales, United Kingdom

Date of opening:

July 2014

Design:

Paramount Interiors

paramountinteriors.com

HI-MACS® Fabrication:

Reynolds Colcutt Furniture Ltd and
Paragon Design Joinery Ltd

HI-MACS® material:

Midnight Grey, Toffee Brown, Arctic White,
Lemon Squash www.himacs.eu

Photography:

Huw Jones Photography



HI-MACS® by LG Hausys

Surfacing the World

www.himacs.eu

HI-MACS® 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 acrylic, natural minerals and pigments that come together to provide a smooth, non-porous and visually seamless surface which meets the highest standards for aesthetics, fabrication, functionality and hygiene – offering manifold advantages over conventional materials.

HI-MACS® provides limitless possibilities for surfacing solutions and inspires creative minds from all over the world. **Zaha Hadid, Jean Nouvel, Rafael Moneo, Karim Rashid and David Chipperfield**, among others, have completed fabulous projects using HI-MACS®, from kitchens to bathrooms, including decorative items, in hotels as well as in museums, shopping centres and on external façades.

LG Hausys' HI-MACS® 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 HI-MACS® is almost as robust as stone, it can be worked in a similar way as wood: it can be sawn, routed, drilled or sanded.

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

As regards hygiene, HI-MACS® 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 HI-MACS® 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.

HI-MACS® offers the longest warranty on the solid surface market with a 15-year warranty for products fabricated and installed by a member of the HI-MACS® Quality Club.

HI-MACS® The New Generation

Inspired by Architecture

For more information and to stay connected, visit our [website](#) and our [newsroom](#).

Let's connect!



* HI-MACS® is designed and produced by **LG HAUSYS**, a world leader in the technology sector belonging to LG Group, and distributed by **LG HAUSYS EUROPE** based in Geneva (Switzerland).