

'Constantin'
by Willem Benoit Interieur

HI-MACS® brightens the interior of an historic building on an Amsterdam Canal

HI-MACS® was chosen for this project to fuse the traditional and contemporary architectural styles

In one of the most-visited neighborhoods of Amsterdam stands an old brick apartment building that has been refurbished to fill its interior with light and harmony. Architectural studio Willem Benoit Interieur, with the help of the fabricators Houtwerk BV, has transformed this 90-m² apartment, spread over two floors, into a perfect home to enjoy the city's canals. One of the main ingredients of the project – and partially responsible for the amazing final result – is the use of HI-MACS® as the primary material in the essential spaces of the home: the fully open-plan kitchen and the bathroom. The pure, clean lines of the material successfully deliver the clarity and brightness sought by the architects.



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High resolution photos available at www.himacs.eu/newsroom

One of the characteristics of the streets surrounding Amsterdam's canals is their dark, elongated buildings with uneven façades that create a unique urban landscape. What were once warehouses have today been converted into stylish homes that embellish some of the most important canals, such as Prinsengracht, where this apartment is found, right between the Anne Frank House and the Stadsschouwburg, one of the city's most prominent theaters.

Despite being located in one of the busiest areas of the city, the team from Willem Benoit Interieur managed to create a peaceful atmosphere on the inside. The minimalist-style apartment is **characterized by the spaciousness of its open-plan areas, the feeling of freedom, and the brightness** provided by the huge, bare windows, the white ceilings and walls, and the focal point of the elegant kitchen island, made from HI-MACS®.

The white color is repeated throughout the home, counterbalanced with light shades of blacks and grays, found on the iron frames of the windows and doors, and in the sofa.

The architects opted to keep traditional materials in all the spaces, such as the iron and wood that are the perfect complement to the contemporary acrylic stone; according to Benoit, *"the aim was a modern building, with a light, clean interior, respecting the original elements."*

A radiant white kitchen island created using HI-MACS® is the focal point of the first floor

The apartment conveys simplicity and clarity as soon as you walk in. A formidable glass door, framed in iron, gives way to the first floor, where the open plan living room, dining room, and kitchen are all found, united by the original beams in the ceiling. **The link between these three spaces is the unique and magnificent acrylic stone kitchen island**, ideal for cooking and hosting guests in a completely unencumbered space.



HI-MACS® in Alpine White was chosen as the material due to its monolithic appearance and its totally smooth, silky surface that is hygienic, resistant and non-porous, which make it ideal for a kitchen worktop.

In addition, **the seamless finish made possible by this material and its precision in the formation of edges, organize the space and give it a flawless look.** The kitchen island stands out even more thanks to the dark color of the wood on the wall, which hides a functional kitchen behind it, again highlighting the fact that the acrylic stone and wood form a perfect pair.

The tall, typically Dutch-style windows allow lots of light to enter and brighten up the space all day long.



Bathroom and bedrooms integrated under a sloping roof

The bathroom and bedroom with dressing room are located on the second floor, and are both bright, open areas, again thanks to the large windows and the use of glass to separate the rooms.

The wash basin and shower tray have both been made from HI-MACS® in the Alpine White colour, reflecting the colour of the walls in the bathroom room.

With a totally simple look and a smooth texture, the washroom is perfectly fitted to the space available. Its surface is also water resistant, completely hygienic, and easy to clean and maintain.

The white acrylic stone of the shower tray and the wash basin are key in the contrast between the light and dark shades of the materials and surfaces that is repeated throughout the apartment. The white

elements contrast with the dark parquet, the touches of black used in the furniture accessories, the exposed old wooden beams, and the iron on the windows.



The final result of this refurbishment in the “Venice of the North” is an elegant home with a deceptive simplicity. In a project with these characteristics, the functional advantages and design potential of the acrylic stone are abundantly clear, whilst the precision of the HI-MACS® finish underscores the dialog between classicism and modernity which the designers played with constantly throughout this apartment.



PROJECT REFERENCES

Project name: Constantin

Work completion date: February 2017

Architects: Willem Benoit Interieur <http://www.benoitinterieur.be>

Interior designer/Decorator: Willem Benoit in collaboration with Diewert van der Horst de Houtwerk BV and Bob de Kort

Location: Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Fabrication: Houtwerk BV, The Netherlands www.houtwerk.nl

HI-MACS® supplier: Baars & Bloemhoff, The Netherlands

Material: HI-MACS® Alpine White www.himacs.eu

Photographer: © Stijn De Graeve - footoo

Other companies that participated in the project: Bob de Kort - Amsterdam www.bobdekort.nl

Area (m²): Approx. 90 m²

HI-MACS® by LG Hausys

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 quality, 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 by a Quality Club Member.



HI-MACS®. Because Quality Wins.

For more information and to stay connected, visit our [website](http://www.himacs.eu) and our [newsroom](#).

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* **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 Frankfurt (Germany).

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