

## HI-MACS® gives Artillery Mansions apartment in London a new lease of life



Dining area, kitchen and central 'floating' HI-MACS® block housing a work station and storage.

Photo: Bruce Hemming

**FORMstudio has reconfigured and refurbished a residential London apartment using HI-MACS® in fresh Alpine White.**

*It's all very well designing a purpose-built apartment that conforms perfectly to developers' rules and regulations but there's something quite soulless about the standard 'cookie cutter' solution that was popular back in the 1990s. This was certainly the case in south west London's Artillery Mansions. Conservative and safe, the resulting layout was uninspired and lacked imagination as well as resulting in a somewhat confined floor space that simply didn't flow. The front door opened up onto a windowless L-shaped corridor with solid fire doors separating the space from the rest of the interior. 'Whilst many feel that space standards should be increased, in my view there's not enough discussion about quality of space,' reveals **FORMstudio's Director Malcolm Crayton**. 'Architects should be trusted to use their skills to make better use of this precious commodity, to create better designed, compact*

*living spaces that are truly affordable, rather than larger, less-affordable floor areas, which are then sacrificed through poor design.'*



Taking on the challenge of reconfiguring and refurbishing the apartment for its private client owner, Project Architect and Associate Mike Neale chose HI-MACS® in Alpine White for a central 'floating' block that conceals an existing structural column and houses a home office workstation. Articulated with a concealed LED lighting strip around its top edge, the block incorporates a desk and shelves in HI-MACS® acrylic stone, turning what was once a dark, uninspired area into a light, bright, durable workspace with a fresh, modern feel. 'The clients wanted a desk that was durable and clean; one that would fit in perfectly with the crisp, white, modern aesthetic of the apartment,' says Mike. 'The desk is a high usage area and white painted shelves are very prone to marks. They really needed an easy-clean, hardwearing product and HI-MACS® was the perfect choice. It doesn't stain and can put up with a lot of use, what with books and computers being moved around. We often use HI-MACS® for plain white applications, as it's a fantastic material to work and live with.'

Designing the workstation 'block' also allowed for a spacious kitchen to be incorporated into the open-plan living space to one side; with a walkway to the front door on the other. Two full-height concealed fire doors complete the enclosure of a protected escape route from both bedrooms and the living space in the event of a fire. There's also the flexibility to separate the work area from the living space or to temporarily increase the separation of the open-plan living/kitchen area from the bedrooms when required. The bathrooms and storage

are both located within the deepest internal area of the floor plan and are finished in grey glass mosaic to enhance the 'cave-like' sense of having been carved out of the carefully detailed white finishes and white-oiled wide plank Douglas fir flooring that bring the rest of the apartment together.



The complete re-imagining of the layout and interior demonstrates how a fresh approach can make much better use of the available floor space in a typical developer flat by incorporating space that was previously wasted in the internal corridor. The result is a more enjoyable, flexible, naturally lit open-plan arrangement that is much better suited to its owner's needs and lifestyle.

**HI-MACS®** is the ultimate versatile, flexible material perfect for residential and commercial projects. It can be thermoformed and moulded into any shape and is widely used for interior and architectural applications. Made from a mix of acrylic, minerals and natural pigments, it creates a smooth, non-porous and visually seamless surface that meets the highest standards for quality, aesthetics, fabrication, function and hygiene. It's also extremely easy to clean and maintain with a quick wipe down with a damp cloth.

**FORMstudio** is a London-based architectural RIBA Chartered Practice. Their aim is to create places that can be inhabited and experienced by people in a natural and instinctive way - enjoyable spaces with a tranquil sense of simplicity.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

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**Project name:**

Artillery Mansions, London

**Architect:**

FORMstudio [www.formstudio.co.uk](http://www.formstudio.co.uk)

**Fabricator:**

Bfurnished [www.bfurnished.co.uk](http://www.bfurnished.co.uk)

**Main Contractor:**

Volute London Ltd [www.volute.london](http://www.volute.london)

**Material:**

HI-MACS® Alpine White [www.himacs.eu](http://www.himacs.eu)

**Photos:**

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**HI-MACS® elements:**

Desk & shelves above.



## HI-MACS® by LG Hausys

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

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, Marcel Wanders** and **David Chipperfield**, among others, have completed fabulous projects using HI-MACS®.

At the forefront of innovation as always, LG Hausys recently introduced two new products. First **HI-MACS Structura®**, a 3D textured panel material that takes solid surface opportunities to a new level. And now **HI-MACS® 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.

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.

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](#) 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 Frankfurt (Germany)..

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High resolution photos available at [www.himacs.eu](http://www.himacs.eu)