

PRESS RELEASE

A MONUMENTAL ATRIUM STAIRCASE

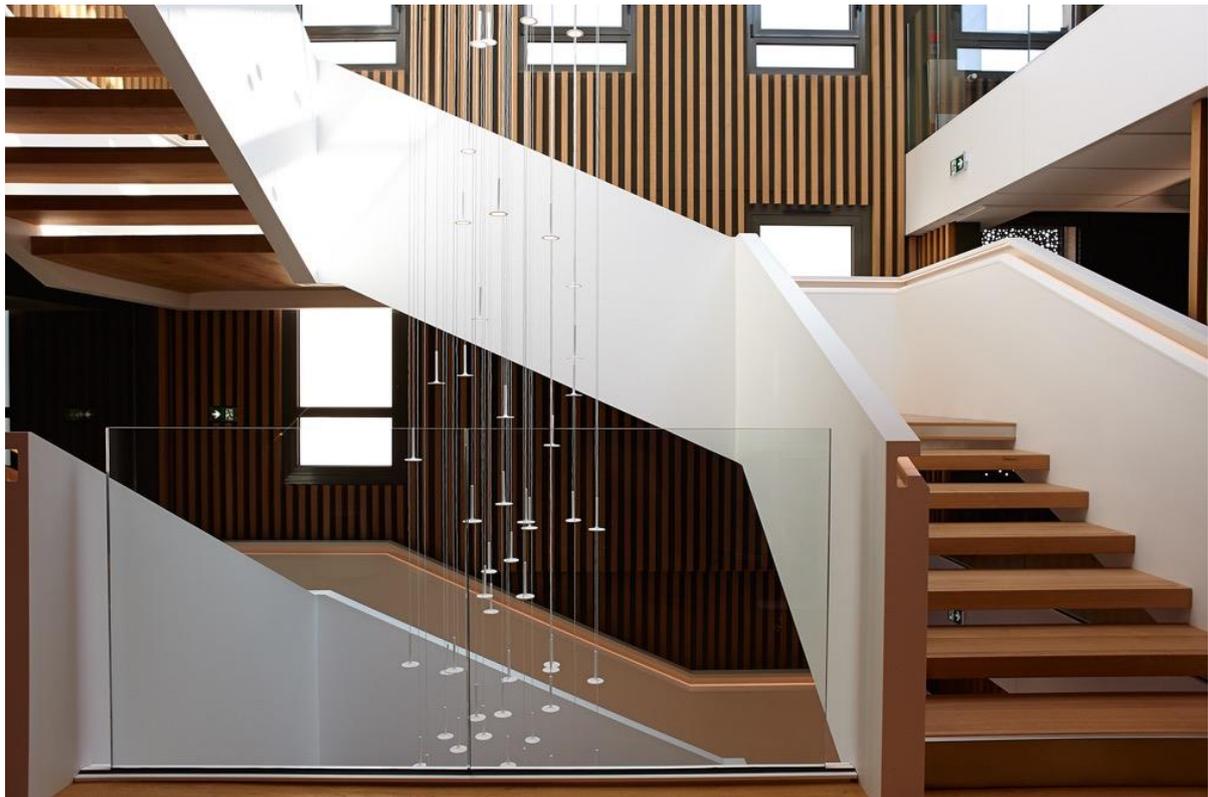
PERFECT COMBINATION BETWEEN WOOD AND HI-MACS®

Photos: © Eric Vanden

HI-MACS®
Natural Acrylic Stone™

On entering the 2019 renovation of the headquarters of insurance company CMMMA, in Châlons-en-Champagne, a majestic staircase made of natural oak and HI-MACS® captures the eye, like a sculpture. The architects Patrick Planchon and Franck Deroche and fine woodworker Landry Gobert have successfully combined function with aesthetics in this structure that serves as the veritable backbone of the building.

The staircase, the backbone of the building



The client's original specifications for the renovation of a building with many constraints were simple: a backbone that would connect all of the sections and that would symbolize the spirit of the mutual insurance company, solidarity. The architectural transposition of that expectation emerged as a monumental atrium staircase, with the different departments and reception areas wrapping around it on three stories.

For State-certified architect Patrick Planchon, *"after testing various materials, HI-MACS® stood out from the rest for its performance and its ability to embody the desired monolithic look, thanks to its absence of visible joints. This choice was confirmed by the ability for fine woodworker Landry Gobert to work it in accordance with the architects' designs."*

In addition, the Solid Surface was chosen for its ability to be shaped down to the smallest detail, in order to reproduce the spatial quality instilled in the structure in a perfect "combination of elegant mass and firm airiness," as described by Patrick Planchon.



Landry Gobert, a fine woodworker accustomed to working with noble materials, managed to elevate this sculptural piece in accordance with best practices. Because, although HI-MACS® is a next-generation material that is as solid as stone, it can be worked like wood. Many master woodworkers have appropriated it for themselves and are using it to continuously push the limits of creation.

Materials in perfect combination: Oak and HI-MACS®

The stairs and landings have been covered with oak slat paneling attached to the metal frame. The wood, varnished natural oak with a matte finish, is an extension of the ground-floor parquet and adds a touch of nobility and warmth to the site.



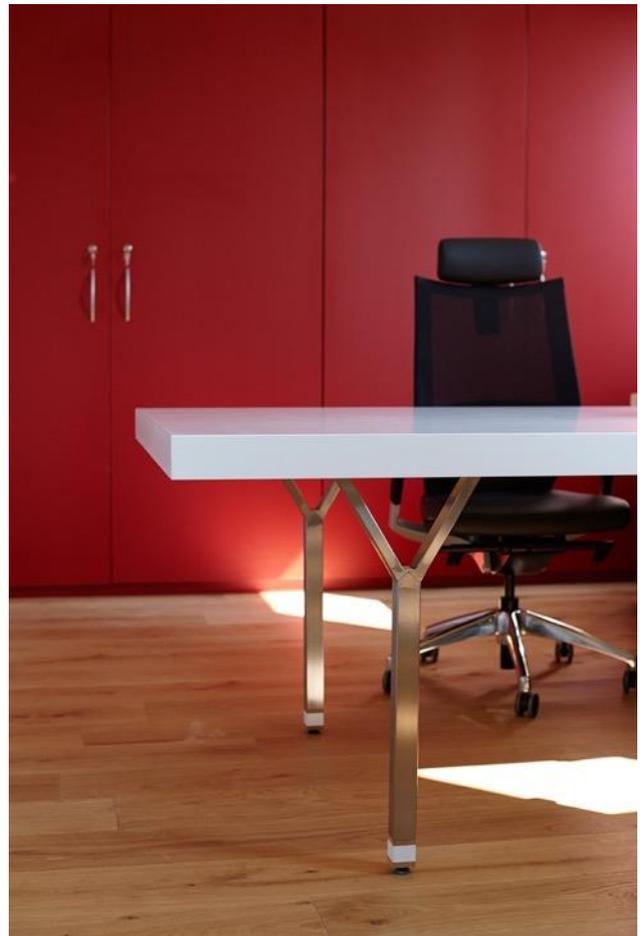
Further enhancing the wood, the railings installed all along the path of this atrium structure – with the exception of the landings – are clad with 12-mm bonded, seamless HI-MACS® Alpine White panels, on top of a metal structure with a slightly beveled lip.

The handrail is perfectly aligned with the inner side and includes recessed joints at the edge of the materials and lighting whose 60° angle illuminates the part of the handrail held by visitors.

Functional, modular furniture in harmony with the staircase

Each space is arranged in perfect accord with the staircase, which sets the tone as soon as a visitor sets foot inside, with variations in warm tones varying between woody colours, the grey brown of the wall cladding and the deep red of the furniture and decorations, set off by the immaculate white of the HI-MACS®.

Four imposing modular conference tables plus consoles made of HI-MACS® furnish the Board Room with its retractable back wall, as well as workspaces with desks and slat paneling, likewise made of HI-MACS®.



Like the staircase – the pillar of this renovation – HI-MACS® has made it possible to once again push the heights of the creative work of architects Patrick Planchon and Franck Deroche, and of fine woodworker Landry Gobert, who collaborated in perfect harmony to meet the client's specifications. HI-MACS® was the material of choice for its versatility and its endurance over time, as well as its ability to integrate with traditional materials and reflect the values of the company.

Technical information

Project name:

Re-engineering of CMMA Headquarters

Location:

Châlons-en-Champagne, France

Project delivery date:

2019

Client:

CMMA

Project manager:

Patrick Planchon, State-certified architect, and Franck Deroche, architect & certified independent project manager – franckderoche.ultra-book.com

Production:

Landry Gobert, fine woodworker – www.landrygobert.com, – and AMV Métallerie for the structure – www.amv-metallerie.fr.

Material:

HI-MACS® S028 Alpine White, www.himacs.eu, and varnished natural oak with a matte finish

HI-MACS® supplier:

Aska Interior - www.aska-interior.com

Photo credits:

© Eric Vanden

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 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® 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, **HI-MACS® Intense Ultra**, combining the characteristics from two disparate worlds: **Intense Colour Technology** and **Ultra-Thermoforming**.

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. Furthermore, HI-MACS® has obtained the French **QB certification** and **CSTB ATec “Avis Technique”** for facade applications.

HI-MACS® offers 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).

HI-MACS® Media contact for Europe:

Mariana Fredes – LG Hausys Europe GmbH - Ph. +41 (0) 79 693 46 99 – mfredes@lghausys.com

High resolution images available: www.himacs.eu/newsroom