

HI-MACS® makes a splash at a new swimming school in Barcelona

Penguins Barcelona is the new, innovative aquatics centre designed to stimulate children's growth and support mothers-to-be throughout their pregnancy. To achieve this, design studio Pia Capdevila, together with architecture studio ARQ71, designed a safe, hygienic space thanks to HI-MACS®.



Penguins Barcelona, located in Barcelona's exclusive Sarrià neighbourhood, is a pioneering school where everything revolves around water. The pool has been designed so that babies, children and pregnant women will be able to have a unique experience.

Since it is a centre mainly designed for children—from babies up to the age of 8— the design team paid special attention to the properties of all the materials to create safe spaces that are easy to maintain. That is why they chose HI-MACS® as the main element in the design of the areas that need to be more hygienic, such as the changing tables and baths.

The main aim of Penguins Barcelona swimming school is to develop children's cognitive, psychomotor and emotional abilities through water, a medium that encourages their creativity and desire to learn, which is why this environment had to transmit confidence and fun. To achieve this, design studio Pia Capdevila looked to design a space with a clean, immaculate look where families

would be able to enjoy their time together. The school also had to be a comfortable place accessible for all children, in order to give them autonomy.

These facilities, pioneered in Spain, consist of a main pool with safe, crystal-clear water that has no chlorine thanks to the technologies used to clean it. In fact, Penguins has become the first centre in Spain to teach classes in a salt water pool.

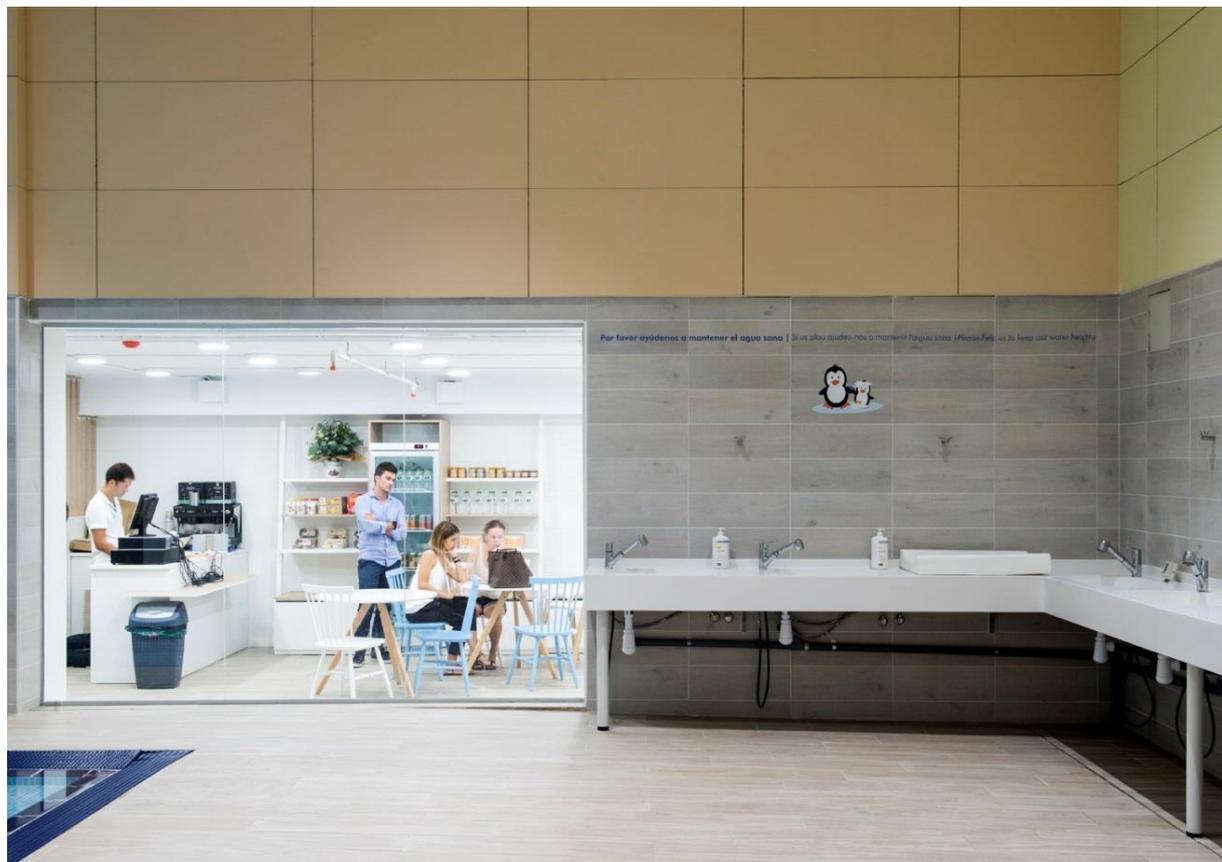


At Penguins, everything is designed to make users' lives easier. The design studio decided to install baths and changing tables in the same place as the pool, so parents can dry off and dress their little ones as soon as they get out of the water, without having to go to another area. To create those elements, HI-MACS® was chosen as the material *“because it is highly resistant, antibacterial and easy to clean, since it’s seamless. In addition, LG Hausys’ acrylic stone allowed us to design bespoke baths and integrate them into the worktop,”* explains Pía Capdevila, creative director of the design studio.

The changing rooms are right next to the pool, as an extension, and feature baths for babies, as well as showers and sinks all made from HI-MACS®, at different heights. The acrylic stone material is extremely hygienic and thermoformable, meaning it was easy to adapt it to the shapes and measurements designed by Capdevila. The Arctic White shade of HI-MACS® was chosen for all these elements, helping to create a relaxed, neat ambience.



For parents whose children take individual swimming lessons, a relaxation room was created with pool views, as well as a children's play centre. *"We were looking for a space that had a clean and simple image, where, above all, parents and children alike would be able to have a good time. We didn't want it to be too childish or too sterile either,"* says Capdevila. The café has thus become the meeting point for many of the families, with a snack area and work area for busy parents.



The choice of HI-MACS® was key in a project like this one, since it was essential to have pure, resistant high-quality materials that would make it easy to maintain, as well as provide a functional result and a relaxed ambience.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT DESIGN

Project name: Penguins Barcelona

Date of completion, HI-MACS®: June 2016

Renovation architect: Ferran Besa <http://arg71.com>

Renovation designer: Pía Capdevila INTERIORISMO <https://piacapdevila.com/>

Location: Barcelona, Spain

HI-MACS® manufacturer: J. Luis Espejo

HI-MACS® supplier: Gabarro www.gabarro.com

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

Photos: © Eric Pamies

HI-MACS® elements: Children's baths, changing tables, sinks and worktops



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 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.

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