

Translucent surround in HI-MACS® illuminates central bus station in Weilheim, Bavaria



In modern urban architecture, the deliberate interplay of light and materials is used to shape the environment. The aim is, firstly, to provide orientation and shelter and, secondly, to convey a sense of well-being. For the redesign of the central bus station (ZOB) in Weilheim, Bavaria, HI-MACS® natural acrylic stone in the translucent shade 'Opal' was used to provide an ideal surround for the glass canopy of the new bus platform shelter. This use showcases both the elegance and weather resistance of the Solid Surface material.

The overall design concept devised by Atelier PK Architects in Berlin for the redesign of Weilheim city bus station in Upper Bavaria meets many different functional requirements and will, in the future, serve as a link between Weilheim city centre and the station site. One of the design elements of the "Neue Weilheimer Bahnhofsbund" (New Weilheim Station Band), as it is called, is the modern, illuminated glass canopy of the central bus station and bike & ride station. The structure extends over five of the seven new bus platforms while also offering passengers direct, weather-protected access to trains on platform 1. The impressive 120 m-long and 8 m-wide canopy was designed, manufactured and assembled by Glasbau Gipser GmbH, a specialist in bespoke glass and metal construction.

Holding up the canopy is a stable, 130-tonne, galvanised and coated steel supporting structure, which bears the weight of the 1,000 m² of glazing and 200 m² flashing.

The real highlight, however, is the cladding on the outside edge of the roof, which is made from HI-MACS® Solid Surface material. To produce this, the surface technology specialists at Roskopf + Partner AG manufactured a total of 390 panels of the acrylic stone, which give the canopy its bright and elegant surround. As a special design effect, the elegant lettering 'ZOB Weilheim' (Weilheim bus station) was milled onto two places of the circumferential band, which, thanks to the translucent properties of the 'Opal'-coloured Solid Surface material is effectively backlit and stands out very clearly. In the dark, the entire band is brightly illuminated, creating a safe and friendly atmosphere for passengers.



With its almost unlimited design possibilities, HI-MACS® is the perfect material for this cladding. It offers a variety of outstanding properties, including three-dimensional thermoplastic forming capabilities and an extensive colour palette. HI-MACS® 'Opal' is from the Lucent collection, whose translucent shades allow for spectacular designs and optimally underscore the effective use of light. The material is also extremely weather resistant, keeping future maintenance requirements to a minimum.

That was not the only material characteristic that stood out for those involved in the project: "This project was our first time working with HI-MACS® and we were really impressed by its durability and easy assembly. Basically, for our installers, there was barely any difference between fitting the Solid Surface material panels and the flashing," explains project manager M. Manfred Liehr.



With the new design and choice of material, the city of Weilheim has gained a landmark bus station as befitting its special importance as a key public transport hub for the region.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Project: Weilheim Central Bus Station (Bavaria), Germany

Design: Atelier PK Architects, <https://atelier-pk.com/>

Planning, manufacture & assembly: Glasbau Gipser GmbH <https://www.glasbau-gipser.de/startseite>

HI-MACS® workmanship: ROSSKOPF + PARTNER AG, <https://www.rosskopf-partner.de/>

Material: HI-MACS® S302 Opal, www.himacs.eu

HI-MACS® elements: Cladding of the bus platform canopy

Photo credit: © Stefan Müller-Naumann, www.mueller-naumann.de

HI-MACS® Natural Acrylic Stone

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, LX 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**.

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.

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* **HI-MACS®** is designed and produced by **LX HAUSYS (formerly LG Hausys)**, a world leader in the technology sector belonging to LX Holdings Corp.