

HIMACS inspires students on uni campus

HIMACS in Alpine White was selected for the University of Sheffield's Faculty of Social Sciences' new Drum building



Studying at university is educational and inspiring, both in lectures and outside of them. The campus and surroundings can be just as informative as the lessons taught within, so when it came to designing a new building for the Faculty of Social Sciences at the [University of Sheffield](#), [HIMACS](#) was the perfect choice for the wall cladding.

The Drum is an integral part of The Wave, a 16,600sq m building for the Faculty of Social Sciences. Designed by [HLM Architects](#) to meet future growth demands to the year 2035 and provide a world-class, highly sustainable environment to encourage collaboration while enhancing the faculty's reputation for excellence in teaching and research, The Wave is a mini-campus that has brought together faculties from 18 separate buildings into one cohesive space, with the Drum at its core.

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The Drum is a circular lecture block comprising three levels with lecture theatres inside, surrounded by mezzanines with tables and chairs for study or socialising and topped with a glass roof to let the light flood in. The Drum is fully clad in 500 sheets of [HIMACS](#) solid surfacing in [Alpine White S028](#). Over 1,300 individual pieces were thermoformed for the design by fabricators 3G Joinery & Shopfitting, with over 80 different radii to create a sleek and seamless look and feel.

Amy Hipwell, Interior Designer at [HLM Architects](#), explains why they selected [HIMACS](#) for the project, “There were a number of key considerations when choosing the material that would clad the Drum within the atrium of The Wave building. The material needed to be durable and low maintenance with the ability to be curved and appear seamless. The Drum is a central feature of the atrium and is not only visible from every area within the building but it’s also accessible from every level.”

“The concept for the interior focused on well-being and the use of natural materials. The chosen material for the Drum needed to contrast against these softer finishes. Due to the amount of daylight through the atrium roof, it was important that the colour

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wouldn't be affected over time. It became clear that solid surfacing was the right material, as it would stand the test of time and still look impressive in years to come."



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HIMACS in [Alpine White S028](#) is the perfect choice for the Drum's cladding, as HIMACS is renowned worldwide for its spectacular facades. As it can be thermoformed, it's ideal for circular buildings and curvaceous projects and demonstrates beautifully just how inspirational truly exceptional architecture can be.



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High resolution images available: www.lxhausys.com/uk-en/case-studies

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With its innate flexibility and special characteristics, HIMACS is the perfect choice for university buildings, business premises, offices and headquarters. HIMACS is hardwearing, durable and fire resistant as well as exceptionally hygienic and resistant to wear and tear, scratches, stains and UV light. Its non-porous surface makes it extremely quick and easy to clean while its thermoformable properties also allow it to be moulded into any shape and size. The absence of visible seams also ensures a seamless finish that prevents dirt, bacteria and viruses building up on the surface. This makes HIMACS a Solid Surface material with unbeatable hygienic and clean air properties, guaranteed by certifications that comply with **LGA, NSF international standard and Greenguard**.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT DESIGN

Project name: The Drum at The Wave, Sheffield University

Location: Sheffield, England

Designer and Architect: [HLM Architects](#)

Fabricator: 3G Joinery & Shopfitting Ltd

Material: HIMACS in Alpine White S028 www.lxhausys.com/eu | @himacseurope

HIMACS Supplier: James Latham www.lathamtimber.co.uk

Photos: [Martine Hamilton-Knight Photography/HLM Architects/Vox Multimedia](#)

HIMACS elements: Cladding for the Drum within the atrium of The Wave building

HIMACS

The shape of your ideas

www.lxhausys.com/eu/himacs

HIMACS 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 many advantages over conventional materials.

HIMACS 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 HIMACS.

At the forefront of innovation as always, LX Hausys recently introduced two new products. First, **HIMACS 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 in the history of Solid Surface since its inception in 1967. And now, **HIMACS Intense Ultra** combines the characteristics from two disparate worlds: **Intense Colour Technology** and **Ultra-Thermoforming**.

HIMACS 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 HIMACS is almost as robust as stone, it can be worked in a similar way as wood: it can be sawn, routed, drilled or sanded.

HIMACS is made using a next-generation technology, the **thermal cure**. The temperature reached during the manufacturing process sets HIMACS apart from other solid surfaces and creates a denser surface that is even sturdier, more homogeneous and more durable, and with better resistance and superior thermoforming results.

HIMACS does not absorb humidity, is highly resistant to stains and is easy to clean, maintain and repair.

Countless internationally recognised certificates attest to the quality of HIMACS 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 the Alpine White S728 colour.

HIMACS offers a 15-year warranty for products fabricated by a Quality Club Member.

For more information and to stay connected, visit our [EU WEBSITE](#), [UK WEBSITE](#) and our [newsroom](#).

Let's connect!



HIMACS is designed and produced by **LX Hausys (formerly LG Hausys)**, a world leader in the technology sector and a subsidiary of LX Holdings Corp.

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