



A SCULPTURAL STAIRCASE IN HI-MACS®

ROVIGO, ITALY

A sculptural staircase in HI-MACS® for a contract project in between architecture and interior design



HI-MACS® is back as the protagonist of architecture in Italy, thanks to a project from the architect **Ilaria Mosso** who, together with **Simone Piva**, supervised the construction of the new headquarters of the company, **Inox Fondi Srl** of Villamarzana, Rovigo.

The company, leader in the production of stainless-steel dished heads, was in fact looking for a metropolitan and contemporary style to set up its new office block on the main façade of the administrative/manufacturing complex. Hence it turned to the designer who decided to opt for HI-MACS® to create a staircase on *three floors* giving an imposing and dramatic result.

'In the linearity and simplicity of the overall project' recounts Ilaria Mosso, designer of the magnificent staircase *'the idea was to create a contrasting element which, with its curves,*

was able to interrupt yet at the same time combine with the rigidity of the context. Hence the staircase was born¹.

The side and underneath of the metal staircase structure are entirely covered in plasterboard, while the internal parts of the risers and treads are in HI-MACS®. Nothing is standardized, but each single step is one of a kind, made using hand-shaped rough wood templates, which undoubtedly made the project more difficult, but at the same time also truly unique.

The shape of the structure, which like a helix rises from the inner gate of the building, is then highlighted in places by strips of light which underscores its graphic and spectacular character. The desire to obtain a single surface, without any change of material between dark and light, did in fact prompt the architect to experiment with a backlit system for the steps, for which HI-MACS® is also the perfect material.



In order to accommodate the LED lights, the steps had to be milled having first had an extra piece of material added, to increase the thickness of the step. Finally, thanks to a skilful and innovative solution, **the steps were made so as to fasten onto and be released from the structure by means of a magnet system** which, by making everything easily removable, also makes it very practical to remove the electrical system in case of a fault.



'HI-MACS® was chosen for various reasons' continues architect Mosso, 'for instance because of its transparency and colour uniformity, and also because it is easy to work with,

even when its thickness is very reduced – in this case only 9 mm – and finally because of its brightness and its modern appearance¹.



In addition to the magnificent staircase, HI-MACS® also makes a subtle appearance in another room: This New Generation Acrylic Stone has been used to create a structural detail of the **meeting room table**, a horizontal line which follows the complete length of the 240 cm top, before turning into an extremely slim but sturdy leg. This unique piece, was conceived to link the major architectural piece of the building, with a tiny detail in the meeting room, and thus complete a comprehensive project with an definite personality.

Client: Inox Fondi Srl – www.inoxfondi.com

Architect: Ilaria Mosso – www.ilariamosso.com

HI-MACS® fabricator (Quality Club Member): Simone Piva - www.simonepiva.com

Material: HI-MACS® Alpine White – www.himacs.eu

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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 acrylic, natural minerals and pigments that come together to provide a smooth, non-porous and visually seamless surface which meets the highest standards for 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** and **David Chipperfield**, among others, have completed fabulous projects using HI-MACS®, from kitchens to bathrooms, including decorative items, in hotels as well as in museums, shopping centres and on external façades.

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.

As regards hygiene, 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® The New Generation

Inspired by Architecture

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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 Geneva (Switzerland).