

HIMACS

Rycotewood goes wild with HIMACS Where art meets furniture design



The annual student design competition at [Rycotewood Furniture Centre](#) in Oxford is always a stimulating exercise in creative exploration and 2024 was no exception. From more recognisable pieces of furniture to concepts bordering on high art, these intrepid young minds were on fire when it came to pushing the boundaries with [HIMACS](#).

UK distributor for HIMACS, James Latham, a long-time champion of skills and material innovation in the UK furniture-making industry, returned as a sponsor of the competition for a third consecutive year, providing premium materials to inspire the students.

Twelve second-year degree students took part and were challenged to produce a piece of furniture intended for storage. Since James Latham first partnered with Rycotewood, HIMACS solid surface has proven to be one of the most popular materials for flexing the student's creative muscles. It was an overwhelming favourite again this year, being chosen for almost every piece entered and with an impressive variety of elegant applications.

The 2024 edition also saw this pioneering and ultra-versatile product pushed to its limits with show-stopping results, including one of the most original treatments and inventive applications of HIMACS seen to date.

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High resolution images available: <https://www.lxhausys.com/eu-en/case-studies>

HIMACS

Burning with ideas

The overall winner was **Baxter Mansley-Leach**, who designed and built a unique hallway storage piece characterised by daring vision and ingenious experimentation.



Design by Baxter Mansley-Leach

Using a wide variety of materials including oak, woven willow, and steel rebar to create the frame and basket, Baxter fashioned the piece's crowning glory – a feature inspired by a traditional Native American headdress – by customising HIMACS to resemble weather-beaten leather or bone.

This involved considerable manipulation of the material, which is renowned for its robust durability, resistance – and even reparability if needed – but which has never been given such deliberate treatment before!

The look Baxter was seeking came about as he explored the behaviour of the material under considerable duress, by subjecting it first to acid bathing then blow-torching. Ultimately, Baxter heated the HIMACS sheet to 450 degrees in a kiln* designed for pottery, then ripped it by hand and scraped the blistered surface away. It was this latter technique, which achieved the most interesting results, creating a torn and frayed effect. By maximising HIMACS's ease of fabrication and thermoformability, he was then able to create the distinctive headdress element to complete his design.

The judges were unanimous in their praise, singling out Baxter's ambition, inventiveness and ability to conceive and create both a storage space and a striking artwork in a single piece of furniture.

*Naturally it is not recommended that HIMACS be treated in this way for standard applications, other than for one-off artistic or decorative works, as this would nullify the warranty and potentially affect key functional properties. Furthermore, any such treatments should be undertaken only in controlled working conditions and with the appropriate safety measures and equipment.

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Bend me, shape me, any way you want me

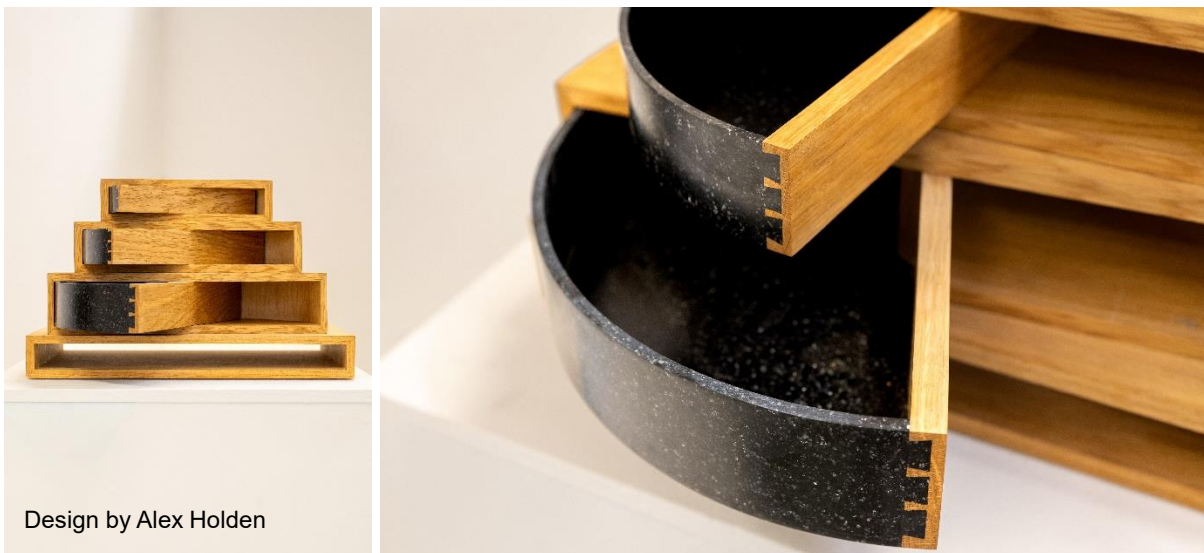
There were a number of other ingenious and finessed uses of HIMACS worthy of mention which showcase both its elegance and versatility.

Charlie Martin demonstrated the material's ability to be carved like natural timber to great effect, routing a tessellated inlay in **HIMACS Diamond White** for integration to a contemporary side cabinet.



Design by Charlie Martin

Alex Holden, chose **HIMACS Sanremo** to be dovetail jointed to European Oak to achieve a visual contrast for the drawer interiors of his sophisticated, multi-tiered jewellery box.



Design by Alex Holden

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Exploring the material's ability to be twisted, turned and even knotted, **Lucas Davidson**, used thin lengths of **HIMACS in Black** to create a wrought iron effect on the doors of his wall-mounted kitchen cabinet.



Design by Lucas Davidson

Matthew Suckling also worked with thin straps of **HIMACS in Black** to create a series of artistically curved bars as a flourish to his own piece.



Design by Matthew Suckling

HIMACS



Shaun Allison created an elegant wall storage piece in which a slender, seamless strip of **HIMACS in Intense Ultra Black** lines the edge of a beautifully and skilfully veneered cupboard and drawer unit and then curves into serpentine shelves below.

Commenting on the work, **Josh Hudson, Furniture Lead at Rycotewood**, said, *“It’s been a privilege to watch how our students have taken to a non-traditional furniture material like HIMACS, and the more familiar they’re becoming with it, the more ambitious they’ve become in their scope. Baxter’s piece is truly inspiring and shows an incredible depth of imagination, playfulness, and even rebelliousness in the final piece.”*

Project: Annual student design competition at [Rycotewood Furniture Centre](#)

Design: Baxter Mansley-Leach (Winner), Charlie Martin, Matthew Suckling, Alex Holden, Lucas Davidson, Shaun Allison.

HIMACS Distributor: James Latham

HIMACS Colours used: S922U Intense Ultra Black, S028 Alpine White, M605 Sanremo, S034 Diamond White, www.lxhausys.com/eu

Photography: Josh Cameron, Feed Me Content

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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