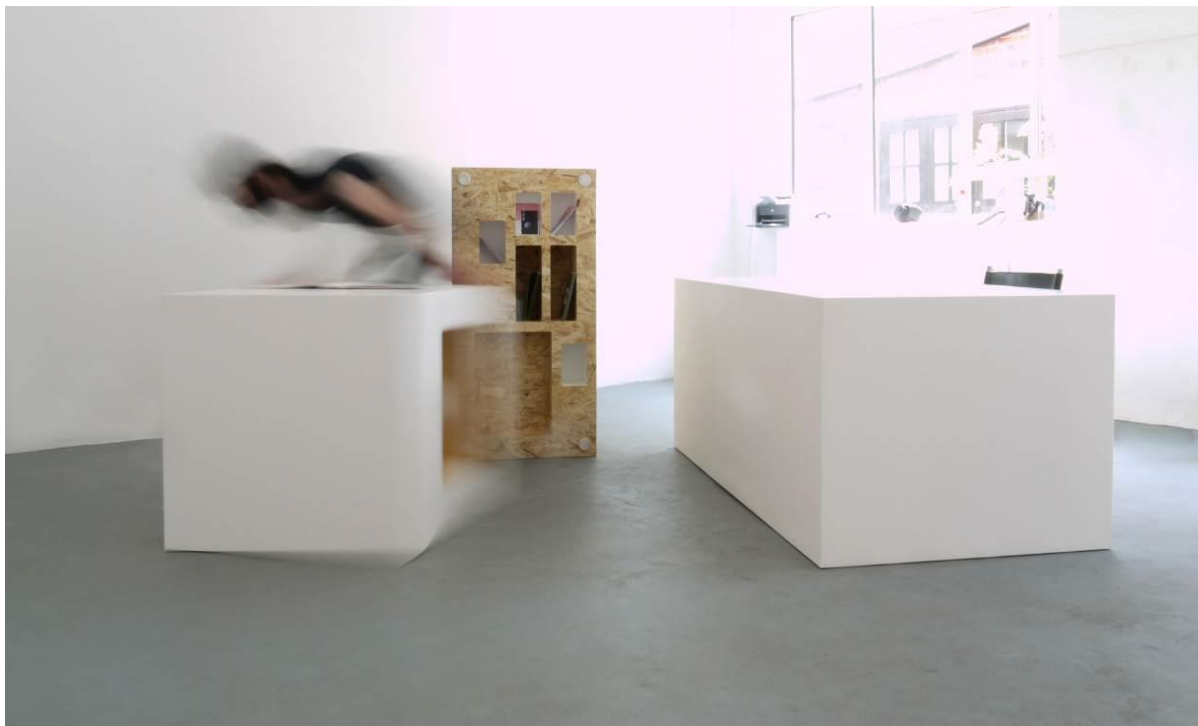


## Studio Polpo experiments with HI-MACS® Solid Surface Material to Make Interlocking Furniture for Bloc Projects



Sheffield based **Studio Polpo** have created interlocking furniture using **HI-MACS® solid surface** and OSB for **Bloc Projects**, an artist led exhibition space. The furniture pieces playfully explore the properties and assumptions of these two very different sheet materials. The objects, which include a desk, a storage unit and a display case, were fabricated by **WALL™ (We Are Limitless Limited)**, a specialist company based in the North West of England who manufactures bespoke furniture.

The project was designed to answer a space saving need for the Bloc Projects' main space to be versatile in housing a small office or meeting arrangement, a range of storage items and the temporary display of Bloc Shop items among other things, without being compromised in its primary function as a gallery space.

The resulting Bloc Objects are a series of furniture pieces that work together or separately in numerous configurations, depending on how the gallery space is being used. The three objects can be connected into each other to create seamless white solids or separated to reveal a rougher OSB inner lining. The project experimented with HI-MACS® solid surface, playing with the ability to invisibly join the material, but also revealing a supporting timber structure which is conventionally hidden by fabricators. Altering the configuration of the three objects allows different functional and aesthetic requirements to be met.

The furniture pieces complete the first phase of a larger feasibility study prepared by studio Polpo that considered ways to broaden the activities and events hosted by Bloc Projects. They allow events and administrative work to be carried out alongside exhibitions.

The project explored the need for functionality, flexibility and simplicity within gallery spaces but incorporates also an aspect of investigation and surprise.

*“We were seduced by the smooth, perfect finish that the solid surface could achieve but also excited - in a kind of mischievous way - about revealing the hidden, rougher supporting carcass that does most of the work. Configuring the three objects in different ways reveals this interdependence whilst also allowing Bloc Projects to achieve specific functional or aesthetic demands.”*

**(Jonathan Orlek, Studio Polpo)**

**About Studio Polpo** ([www.studiopolpo.com](http://www.studiopolpo.com))

Studio Polpo is a research driven architecture practice and social enterprise, established in 2008 and based in Sheffield, UK. They develop ways to initiate architecture and design projects in collaboration with third sector organisations.

**Bloc Projects** ([www.blocprojects.co.uk](http://www.blocprojects.co.uk))

Bloc Projects is an artist-led project space in the centre of Sheffield. They present and commission exhibitions, events, residencies, exchange projects and educational activity in their gallery and courtyard space. Established in 2002, the organisation provides a platform for early-mid career artists to develop new work and present work to new audiences.

**WALL™ (We Are Limitless Limited – [www.walldesignstudio.co.uk](http://www.walldesignstudio.co.uk) – Twitter @limitlessarewe)**

WALL™ is one of the UK's most highly specialised solid surface fabricators. Led by Mark Robinson, the company's founder, their highly specialised team work on all aspects of design right through to manufacture, utilising advanced computer controlled machinery and thermoforming equipment.

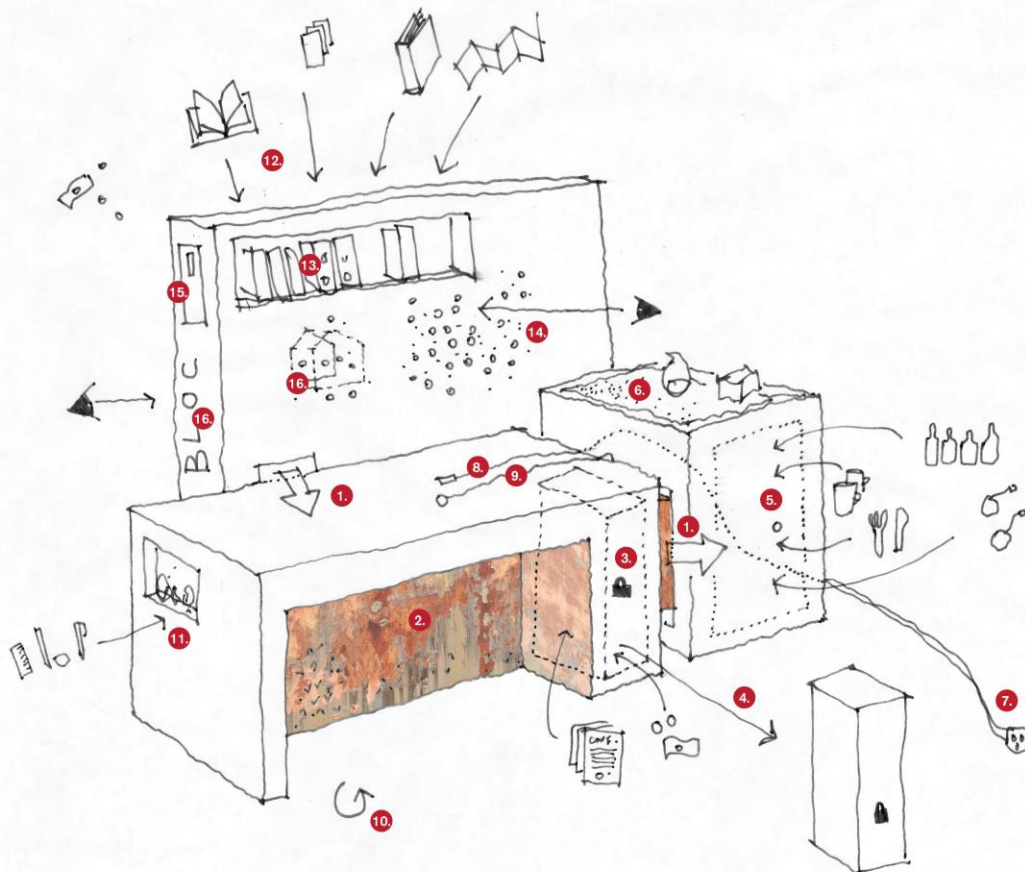
As a company that prides themselves on being manufacturers of bespoke furniture they were excited to collaborate with both Studio Polpo and Bloc Projects, to help them realise their furniture design from initial concept through to stunning reality.

**About HI-MACS® Natural Acrylic Stone** ([www.himacs.eu](http://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.



## Brief Drawing



1. Shape of the three objects allows them to slot together
2. Experimental inner lining
3. Secure area in desk
4. Valuable objects can be unlocked and removed by bloc
5. Kitchenette unit with hidden storage for tea, etc or drinks.
6. Waterproof surface
7. Connected to power supply
8. Power to laptop
9. Security cable for laptop
10. Objects can be rotated to hide lining
11. Easy access storage
12. Resource storage and display
13. Bloc office / bar storage
14. Degree of transparency?
15. Donations box
16. Visual identity.

## HI-MACS® by LG Hausys

### Surfacing the World

[www.himacs.eu](http://www.himacs.eu)

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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 and installed by a member of the HI-MACS® Quality Club.

### HI-MACS® The New Generation

#### Inspired by Architecture

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

Let's connect!



\* 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).