Gagarin Airport

Cosmic architecture inspired by the infinite and the beyond

Designed by the Asadov architectural bureau, Gagarin Airport in Russia, which was named after Yuri Gagarin[1], the first human in history to travel into outer space, is the city of Saratov's new international airport. Spanning more than 247,000 sq. ft. (23,000 m²) in total, it includes an amazing VIP Lounge devised by VOX Architects, where HI-MACS® plays a key role.

HI-MACS® makes its ascent

For the dining and shopping areas, the ubiquitous HI-MACS® Alpine White was used. Not only does the infinitely thermoformable Solid Surface fit perfectly with the airport's modern interior, but it has also become the "icing on the cake," thanks to the expertise of the facility's architects and designers.

HI-MACS® is particularly well-suited to high-traffic and high-tech projects, among a multitude of other advantages that make it one of the most popular finishing materials for public spaces. It is non-porous, seamless, hygienic and stain-resistant, and can also take on any shape, to create ambitious architecture that is able to withstand the test of time. Multiple international certifications have been issued in recognition of the hygienic qualities of HI-MACS® and its ability to preserve indoor

[1] *Saratov is the city where Yuri Gagarin studied and, by chance, where he landed after his historic flight.*

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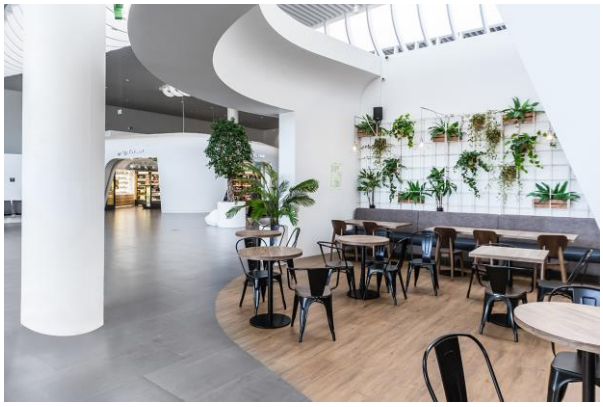
High resolution images available: www.himacs.eu/newsroom

air quality, because it contains no nanoparticles and generates no harmful emissions, thus guaranteeing safe public spaces.

The first use of the material is seen in the shopping area, with walls measuring about 4.5 meters tall and 110 m long, for a total surface area of close to 1,000 m² of HI-MACS®.



The call of the cosmos

Architect Boris Voskoboynikov of VOX Architects was entrusted with the interior design of the 1,044 m² VIP Lounge, with the cosmos and the first space flight identified by the architects as the main theme.

For this project, VOX Architects opted for HI-MACS, “because it is a high-quality, multifunctional material that has proven its worth.”

The primary objective assigned to VOX Architects was to design a comfortable, contemporary VIP Lounge, with all of the necessary functional spaces, in accordance with strict international standards.

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“The cosmic theme is present both directly, for example, the capsules and other references to Gagarin, and metaphorically, as powerful emotional architectural images and other allusions to endurance, breakthroughs, miracles and boundless expanses. On the walls, there are also quotations from Yuri Gagarin, and the white, moulded shapes of the objects convey a sense of space, flight and modernity.”

Like an invitation on an interstellar journey, a combination of white and different shades of blue is used, with the white symbolizing the clouds plowed through by a rocket breaking into the great blue yonder, heading straight for the stratosphere.

To the architects, “The space here is miraculous, infinite, full of enigmatic signs and impregnated with brilliant rays of light, symbolic of a blend of scientific achievements and human bravura.”

The two levels are connected by a glass-walled atrium, a brightly-lit vertical column, which is a complex architectural structure housing a spiral floating staircase, a lift and an adjoining bar.

Thanks to the two-story layout of the lounge, passengers’ journeys can be separated to minimise exposure to each other.

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Reception is located on the ground floor, with its immaculate white HI-MACS® desk in gentle but assertive curves breaking through the sky depicted on the panel behind it.

There are also open relaxation areas, a restaurant and a bar, likewise made of HI-MACS®, plus private lounges and a games room, as well as the door leading directly to the boarding gates.

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Inside the common area, the main showpiece immediately draws all attention: the space capsule. Inspired by the one that brought Yuri Gagarin back to earth in 1961, with its perfect curves and cut-outs, likewise thermoformed using HI-MACS®, it serves as a games room for young travelers.

Upstairs, the spaces are more intimate, like the individual semi-open work pods, a conference room with a kitchenette, offices and private lounges.

The last stop in the stars: a textured portrait of Yuri Gagarin in the conference room. No fewer than 8,600 “slices” of HI-MACS® were cut by computer numerical control (CNC) programmed by the company Smile. An imposing panel measuring 4 x 10 m, in a seamless assembly of 14 pieces, each of them weighing around 200 kg.

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PROJECT DETAILS

Project: Gagarin Airport

Location: Saratov, Russia

Architectural Concept: Asadov | asadov.ru

Fabrication: Expromt | expromt.com

VIP Lounge: VOX Architects | vox-architects.com

VIP Lounge fabrication: Smile | smilestones.ru

Materials: HI-MACS® S028 & S302 – store walls, the space capsule, the welcome desk, the bar and the Gagarin panel in the VIP area

Photo Credits:

VIP Lounge by © Sergey Ananiev

Other areas © Expromt

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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 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, LG 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**.

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.

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.

BECAUSE QUALITY WINS

HI-MACS®. Because Quality Wins.

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 Frankfurt (Germany).

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