

Glasgow Science Centre

"BodyWorks" exhibition by ARKA Design Studio



MAKING SENSE OF THE BODY



An interactive exhibition made with HI-MACS®

Wonder is the desire for knowledge (Thomas Aquinas)



Photography by ©Paul Zanre

*The scientists at the **Glasgow Science Centre** might have had these words from Thomas Aquinas in mind when they dedicated a permanent exhibition to the awareness of the body and its health. Developed with **ARKA Design Studio** for the top floor of the Science Centre, it is an interactive and experimental exhibition concept intended to inspire wonder and encourage research in a playful approach to conveying knowledge to old and young alike. The material they chose for the whole exhibition was HI-MACS®.*

The Glasgow Science Centre is part of a complex on the banks of the Clyde; with its extravagant shape and prismatic, shell-like frame, the building resembles a glass amoeba. The aim of the exhibition is to encourage the discovery and understanding of science and technology with a thought-provoking, amusing and exciting experience, to create awareness in the people of Scotland. The permanent "**BodyWorks**" exhibition opened at the end of March 2013 on the third floor of the Science Centre and is dedicated to the discovery of the human body. A hardwearing material was needed to allow interaction with the exhibits making HI-MACS® the natural choice. The acrylic stone consists of 70% powdered natural stone, 25% high-grade acrylic resin and 5% natural pigments - all valuable, laboratory-tested materials. Its surface is free of pores, which renders it dirt-resistant and extremely easy to look after.

HI-MACS® Media contact for Europe:

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High resolution photos available at www.himacs.eu/press

To allow the human body and its properties to be explored, the Glasgow designers, who were drawn from a number of disciplines, chose an interactive exhibition concept at which the visitors assume the role of scientists but at the same time are the subjects of their experiments. The designers developed more than 100 interactive elements under three main headings: **"About you"** zones, interactive zones and **"Research" capsules**, in which the visitors conduct their own research. In a **"Live Lab"** made completely from HI-MACS®, laboratory assistants demonstrate experiments to the amazement of their audience. The surface of the acrylic stone is extremely homogeneous, so that no fluids or chemicals can penetrate the furniture and it retains its attractive appearance.

The experimental zones are arranged by topic in the open-plan area. Design Director Karen Hamilton and her team used repeating exhibition elements which lend an interior design edge to the subject matter. For example, **"Interactive Tables"** are distributed throughout the exhibition area. Organically shaped and consisting of three HI-MACS® slabs arranged at a 120° angle to each other, they can be used as computer workstations, for experiments or for research.

The playful approach of the exhibition attracts many children, another reason why HI-MACS® was chosen for hygienic reasons. In the **"About You"** section, the visitors figure in their own experiment as they compare their own physical and psychological abilities with those of other visitors and of sporting personalities. For example, it includes a "human hamster wheel" in which they can test how much energy they generate. The wheel is accompanied by a presentation wall made of HI-MACS® printed with texts to explain the exhibit. Acrylic stone is almost as robust as natural stone, but can be worked and processed in the same way as wood, and is also resistant to bacteria and viruses.



The tops of the visitors' tables are decorated with inset designs in grey HI-MACS® which are reminiscent of cells.



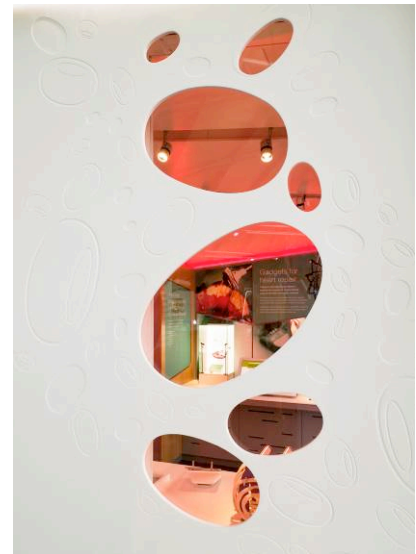
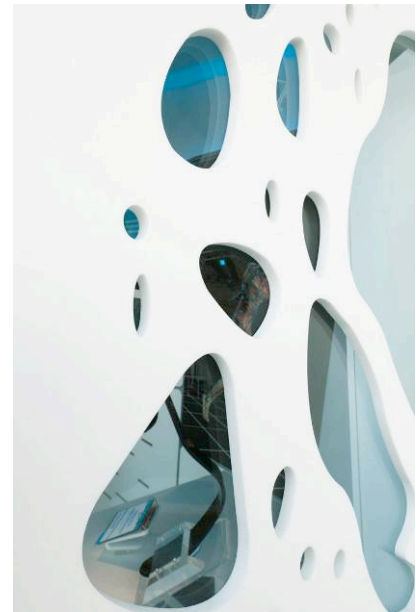
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The uses of the material are practically unlimited, which is also demonstrated by the five Research Capsules which are distributed throughout the exhibition and address in scientific terms questions such as **"How to mend a broken heart"** and **"How your body fights back"**; they form one of the main attractions of the exhibition. These organically shaped structures form an enclosed space clad with CNC-milled HI-MACS® panels displaying organic elements or inlaid designs to stimulate interest in the cube's subject. Access to the capsules is via backlit gaps in the shell, which creates an exciting moment and which also relieves visitors of any reluctance to engage with science.

Even if it is never possible to satisfy completely the desire for knowledge, the mission of this exhibition to enlighten remains a future-oriented proposition. That is why the choice of material has been such a good one, because HI-MACS® is a new generation material; its intelligent composition of natural minerals and pigments allows it to meet the highest standards of aesthetics, functionality and hygiene.





PROJECT INFORMATION

Location: Glasgow, Scotland, UK

Design: ARKA Design Studio www.arkadesignstudio.co.uk

Manufacture: Elmwoods www.elmwoods.com

Text: pro publica, Daniela von Thunen

Material: HI-MACS® Arctic White (S06); Grey (S05) www.himacs.eu

WHAT IS HI-MACS®?

A new generation acrylic stone, **HI-MACS®** is a material that is designed and produced by **LG HAUSYS**, a world leader in the technology sector, and distributed by **LG HAUSYS EUROPE**, based in Geneva (Switzerland).

Due to its thermoformable properties, its wide range of colours, its translucency and the invisible joins, HI-MACS® is able to provide an infinite number of designs and exclusive finishings. Moreover, this material can be worked as easily as wood as it is easy to handle and to cut.

As regards hygiene, HI-MACS® does not absorb humidity and is highly resistant to stains. Its smooth and non-porous surface means that it is not penetrated by liquids. Completely sterile, this material is easy to clean and to repair.

Unlike other similar materials on the market, HI-MACS® is the only Solid Surface to enjoy official **European Technical Approval (ETA) for façades** – for Alpine White S728 colour – which was awarded by the European Organisation for Technical Approvals (EOTA).

During the manufacturing process, HI-MACS® is heated to very high temperatures by means of an advanced firing heat treatment. This procedure makes HI-MACS® different from other types of acrylic stone, giving it better uniformity and making it more resistant to shocks and UV rays.

Acrylic stone provides infinite possibilities for personalised designs and inspires professionals 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.

HI-MACS® is available in around 100 different colours in various ranges; **Solids, Granite, Sand, Pearl & Quartz, Volcanics, Lucent, Eden, Galaxy** and **Marmo**, in different thicknesses of 3, 6, 9 and 12 mm, depending on the shade. HI-MACS® holds a number of international certifications with regard to the environment, hygiene and fire resistance, such as **ISO 9001** and **14001, Greenguard, NSF, LGA** and **IMO MED** certification (Modules B and D), among others.

HI-MACS® stands out for its excellent quality service, guaranteed by its **Quality Club** programme, consisting of a network of expert manufacturers and approved distributors across Europe. HI-MACS® offers the longest guarantee service on the market: 15 years.

For more information:

www.himacs.eu

HI-MACS® The New Generation

Inspired by Architecture

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