

OPEN LOUNGE

Prototype for an open bank by NAU Architecture and DGJ, 2011





Designed by Zurich based international design firm NAU Architecture in collaboration with studio Drexler Guinand Jauslin, the interior of the Open Lounge connect the history and the rich cultural past of the building by exhibiting portraits of the most prominent past residents in the walls – made out of Solid Surface HI-MACS® with a highly technological process.

Raiffeisen's flagship branch on Zurich's Kreuzplatz dissolves traditional barriers between customer and employee, creating a new type of "open bank," a space of encounter.



Advanced technologies make banking infrastructure largely invisible; employees access terminals concealed in furniture elements, while a robotic retrieval system grants 24 hour access to safety deposit boxes. This shifts the bank's role into becoming a light-filled, inviting environment – an open lounge where customers can learn about new products and services.

This lounge feels more like a high-end retail environment than a traditional bank interior. Conversations can start spontaneously around a touchscreen equipped info-table and transition to meeting rooms for more private discussions. The info-table not only displays figures from world markets in real time, but can be used to interactively discover the history of Hottingen, or just check the latest sports scores.

SOLID SURFACE FLOWING MEMBRANE WALLS

Rethinking the nature of client - customer relations, the design represents a prototype for a bank where money is not the only consideration. Cast instead as an urban lounge, the atmosphere is open and light with hints of a high-end boutique. The main characteristics of the space? The inspiring walls made out of HI-MACS® with a highly technological process.

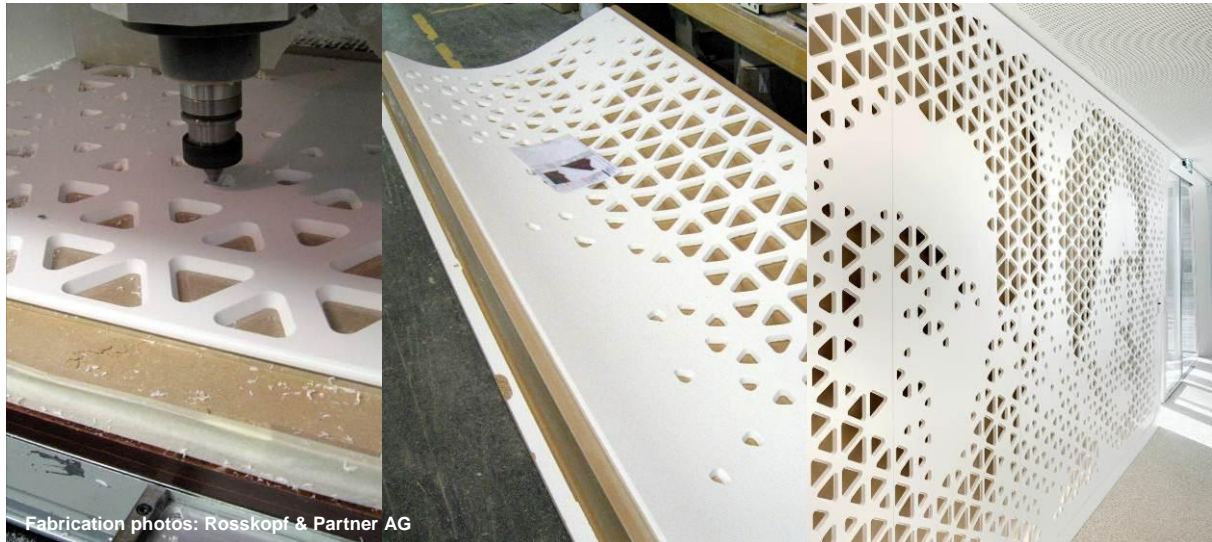


Elegantly flowing walls blend the different areas of the bank into one smooth continuum, spanning from the customer reception at the front, to employee workstations oriented to the courtyard. The plan carefully controls views to create different grades of privacy and to maximize daylight throughout. The walls themselves act as a membrane mediating between the open public spaces and intimately scaled conference rooms.

Developed with the office Rippmann Oesterle Knauss specialized in digital fabrication, portraits of the quarter's most prominent past residents like Böklin, Semper or Sypri grace the walls, their abstracted images milled into HI-MACS® using advanced digital production techniques. While intricately decorative, the design grounds the bank in the area's cultural past, while looking clearly towards the future.

"We selected HI-MACS® for various reasons; first, we were requested to use a 'nearly non-combustible' material with an excellent fire rating value; second, we were looking for a high-tech material with warm feel; third, we needed a material that we could CNC-mill as well as bend for the curved parts" say the architects.

The flowing walls were possible thanks to the solid surface's properties, with almost the same strength as stone, can nevertheless be worked with and fabricated in the same way as wood. The chosen shade was 12mm panels of HI-MACS® Alpine White using the latest in computer-driven milling techniques (CNC) for the fabrication process, made by expert HI-MACS® fabricator Rosskopf & Partner in Germany.



NAU Architecture

www.nau.coop

NAU is an international, multidisciplinary design firm, spanning the spectrum from architecture and interior design to exhibitions and interactive interfaces. As futurists creating both visual design and constructed projects, NAU melds the precision of experienced builders with the imagination and attention to detail required to create innovative exhibits, public events and architecture.

NAU has quickly garnered recognition as an accomplished creator of fashionable interiors for retail, hotels, restaurants and residences.

Its dedicated teams offer a personal touch, working with clients to align design approach with the appropriate market. Distilled in clear, contemporary forms, the designs of NAU promote modern, flexible solutions that engage and welcome.

**Client**

Raiffeisen Schweiz, Niederlassung Zürich

Architects

NAU Architecture
Drexler Guinand Jauslin Architekten

Contact

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Consultants

Media: iart interactive
Digital Production: Rippmann Oesterle Knauss GmbH
Lighting: Sommerlatte & Sommerlatte
Site Supervision: Archobau AG
Mechanical: PGMM Schweiz AG
Electrical: Mosimann & Partner AG
Costs: PBK AG
Acoustics: Braune Roth AG

Info

Area: 400m2

Schedule

Competition: 1st prize, December 2009
Completion: January 2011

Photos

Jan Bitter

RAIFFEISEN

Wallcovering patterns design
ROK, Rippmann Oesterle Knauss

Wallcovering patterns fabrication
Rosskopf & Partner AG

Wallcovering and joinery
Glaeser Baden AG

Wallcovering material
HI-MACS®, 12 mm Alpine White

HI-MACS® Natural Acrylic Stone

HI-MACS® is the *New Generation* of solid surface. It is composed of 70% natural stone powder derived from bauxite, 25% high quality acrylic resin and 5% natural pigments. Designed and produced by **LG HAUSYS**, a world technology leader, it is distributed across Europe from **LG Hausys Europe** headquarters in Geneva.

It is a product of highest quality, and is inert and ecological. Its versatility allows users to mould and transform their ideas into reality with possibilities far beyond those offered by materials traditionally used in the world of architecture and design.

The most prestigious groups have adopted this product which adapts to the most demanding needs with its extraordinary characteristics; it is completely non-porous, has the highest level of durability and thus does not lose its colouring. It also has uniform thickness, allowing for perfectly imperceptible joints!

Easy to fabricate, **HI-MACS®**, with its excellent thermoformability properties, lets you adapt the material to the desired shapes and to create a range of designs that is nearly infinite.

HI-MACS® is used by the most prestigious companies, and many well known architects and designers such as **Zaha Hadid, Jean Nouvel, David Chipperfield, Ron Arad, Marc Newson, Elke Delugan Meissl** and **Joaquín Torres**. Some of the most notable projects made out of **HI-MACS®** include the **Prado Museum** and the **Hotel Puerta América** in Spain, **Leonardo Glass Cube** and the **Porsche Museum** in Germany and the **Zara** flagship store in the Westfield Shopping Complex in London, UK.

HI-MACS® is available in more than 100 colours, comprised of the following ranges: **Solids, Granite, Sand, Pearl & Quartz, Volcanics, Lucent, Galaxy, Marmo**, and the new recycled range of colours **HI-MACS® Eden**. Eden is **GREENGUARD** Certified for indoor air quality as a “**Low Emitting Product**” which can help your projects achieve **LEED® credits** in sustainable design, under the Green Building Rating System managed by the **U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC)** – A clear benefit for constructing sustainable buildings.

HI-MACS® is manufactured in 3, 6, 9 and 12 mm thicknesses. Furthermore a wide range of sinks and bowls is available.

HI-MACS® is synonymous with the very best quality thanks to a production process that it is one of the world's most innovative, sourcing the finest materials that result in a harder, flatter more resistant product. Many international certifications backup the outstanding quality of **HI-MACS®** concerning environment, hygiene, fire resistance and processes as ISO 9001 and 14001, Greenguard, NSF, LGA and IMO MED (Module B and D), among others.

HI-MACS® is in a league of its own with its quality assistance, guaranteed by **Quality Club**, a network of expert and approved fabricators. Thanks to the quality of the material, we can offer the longest warranty package currently on the market: 10+5 years*.

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