

HI-MACS® rises to the challenge for this barn conversion wet-room



The project executed by Solidity for a converted barn's open-plan wet-room using HI-MACS® creates a perfect juxtaposition of ultra-modern elements made from high-performing materials and the rustic timelessness of the building itself.

Converting original and ancient barns into residential homesteads has become a popular architectural feature in rural areas of Britain. These barns can be hundreds of years old and present specific challenges to the architects and builders. If there is a single rule that will lead to a successful design scheme for a residential barn conversion, it is to be 'true to the building', in other words to ensure that the barn retains its essential character.

This was the rule in mind for the expert fabricators, **Solidity**, who were called in to help the owners of a converted barn located in West Sussex to create a stylish and practical wet-room in the eaves of the barn. They kept the original exposed roof and wall beams, some of which have been plastered over during the intervening years, yet they implemented modern materials and solutions, in order to create a comfortable and functional bathroom area.

The choice of the materials creates a juxtaposition between ultra-modern internal elements made from high-tech materials and the rustic timelessness of the building itself.

The wet-room adjoining the owners' bedroom in the vaulted roof area uses HI-MACS® extensively as the contrast works splendidly with the oak beams of the roof, creating a rustic and calm sanctuary. The floor, which needs to be totally impervious to moisture as it holds the integrated shower area in the centre, meets seamlessly with the mid-height walls, also in HI-MACS®. The owner also decided on the acrylic stone for the bespoke basin and surround as well as the furniture including the vanity top and drawer fronts, which would naturally be exposed to moisture as well.

The material was chosen for the many properties which make it ideal in this situation: It's easy thermoforming, its non-porous and impervious surface and the fact that it is so easily joined, cleaned and maintained. As Solidity's MD, Chris Cook says, *"It's the best product available for this type of installation"*. The other great advantage, he explains, is that because of the difficult access Solidity needed to be able to bring in all the material in separate sheets and fabricate and join on site.

It was also the ideal choice of material in this



specific situation, being installed in an old timber building. “From a technical point of view HI-MACS® will flex with the movement of the old building where tiles or stone are too rigid”. This is because HI-MACS® is a natural stone material that has been set in an acrylic matrix.

The final result is stunning and the visual contrast between the highly contemporary white lower interior and the ancient top section of the interior with its timeless oak feature is an inspiring blend of styles.

The owner is delighted with the result: *“It is everything we hoped for and more. We love the contrast between the old beams and the sleek contemporary finish, which doesn’t detract from the original architectural features of the room. Our decision to avoid grout lines and tiles by using HI-MACS® is one we are delighted with”.*

HI-MACS® by LG Hausys

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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.

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.

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Inspired by Architecture

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* 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).