

CASESTUDY



UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

HI-MACS®
Natural Acrylic Stone™

James Latham recently supplied 400 sheets of the highly durable and extremely versatile solid surface material HI-MACS® which was used extensively in the refurbishment of the Students Union at Newcastle University - situated in a 180 year old listed building.



Call 0116 257 3415, email marketing@lathams.co.uk or visit www.himacsuk.co.uk

CASESTUDY

The Scenario

Having been commissioned to carry out the refurbishment, leading architects FaulknerBrowns, who elected to work with Multi Surface Fabrications (MSF) of County Durham, faced a major challenge. This was a listed building and therefore the integral structure and fabric had to remain intact. The brief also specified a material that would stand the test of time, be highly durable, resist heavy traffic and would not wear, look tired or deteriorate in terms of appearance or performance.

The Solution

Both wood and decorative laminates were rejected but HI-MACS® met all the criteria for the specification which called for a modern and contemporary material that would endure round the clock use in a social, working and IT environment. A natural stone acrylic which is easily machined, thermoformed and joined without any visual seams, HI-MACS® is non-porous and impervious to moisture. It's also very easy to clean and maintain, making it totally hygienic.

"We've worked with the team at James Latham since they were appointed as a specialist HI-MACS® distributor in the UK five years ago and their desire, attention to detail and after sales service is second to none."

Andy Noble, commercial manager for MSF

The Result

Over 40 columns, including four which were 6m tall and spanning two floors of the main bar area were created using HI-MACS. They also constructed two bars, including the main bar which incorporates a feature island, plus two, 2.5m tall circular seating areas from HI-MACS®. Plus, HI-MACS® was used to create a number of computer desks and printer stations. In addition, the main reception desk is constructed from HI-MACS® as are the coffee shop counters and radiator casings throughout the building as well as fifty coffee table tops and a number of shopfittings in the Students Union shop. This highly successful and prestigious project gained FaulknerBrowns top prize in the Education Interior Design Award category at the National Mixology North Awards, and they also won Design Practice of the Year.



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