

Recording community history: Backlit HIMACS clads the 'Sounds of Hayes' underpass



Demonstrating how effectively HIMACS solid surface can transform any setting, the high-performance, ultra versatile material has been used to illuminate the history of EMI records in Hayes, where it now lines the walls of a widely-used pedestrian underpass.

A fine example of an urban regeneration project that is sensitive to its local community, the tunnel leads from the train station towards the **Old Vinyl Factory** (now a housing development) where once so many chart-topping discs were pressed. The renovation was led by design studio **The Decorators**, with graphics by **Bandiera** to represent the grooves on vinyl records. Multiple panels of HIMACS in the translucent colourway **Opal** have been customised with these CNC engravings celebrating the heritage of the prestigious British music label.

The cladding is constructed from steel, aluminium and HIMACS, with LED lighting fitted behind each separate panel – which have not been seamlessly joined in this case to allow for maintenance access to the electrical systems. The once painted walls now become a playful interaction of texture, tone and light, echoing in stereo the sound of local people passing through on their daily commute. The installation also recognises the contribution of **Alan Blumlein**, one of the most prolific British inventors of the 20th century, who pioneered stereo sound recording and was a senior sound engineer at **EMI** in Hayes.

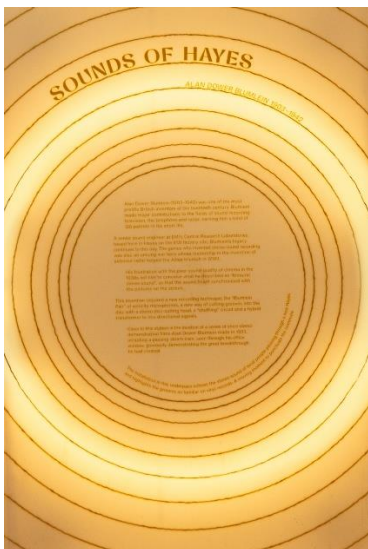
HIMACS Media contact for Europe:

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High resolution images available: <https://www.lxhausys.com/eu-en/case-studies>

HI·MACS

The new wall cladding has a dynamic quality, not only through natural light changes at different times of the day and the year, but through the LED backlighting enhancing the patterns of the panel design, which grows more evocative as daylight dims. This is enhanced by the ethereal translucency of **HIMACS in Opal**, a neutral colourway which comes to luminous life with light diffusion through the material. The cladding was fabricated and fitted by **The White Wall Company** who specialise in such complex, artistic, public installations.



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Strong, sleek, durable and easy to maintain, HIMACS is ideal for public projects such as this. Its design versatility makes it eminently adaptable and its non-porous, homogeneous composition makes it resistant to staining. Furthermore, any damage – whether accidental such as scuffs and scratches, or deliberate such as graffiti – can in most cases be removed or repaired. Used widely for high-impact exterior cladding and facade projects, HIMACS is also UV resistant in the colours earmarked for such applications.

Reviving a starry past for present and future generations

The Sound of Hayes project was commissioned by the London Borough of Hillingdon. Councillor Eddie Lavery, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, comments: *"Reviving our town centres is a key part of our council strategy and we're committed to supporting projects that ensure they continue to thrive for generations to come."*

As part of these infrastructure projects, over £8.5 million has been dedicated to the improvement of Hayes town centre, including part of Transport for London's new Elizabeth line station. Funding includes section 106 contributions from land and property developers, which have paid for the transformation of the underpass.

So, the residents of Hayes now have an elegantly lit and decorated pedestrian facility, and one can't help wondering whether recording artists - from The Beatles to The Rolling Stones, Queen to Kate Bush, Pink Floyd to Kraftwerk - may have once walked through a formerly drab and gloomy underpass on their way to EMI in their early days... and what they might think about the homage paid to their label on the walls of the tunnel today.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Location: Hayes, London Borough of Hillingdon

Design: The Decorators www.the-decorators.net | [@thedecorators](https://www.instagram.com/thedecorators)

Graphic Design: Guglielmo Rossi Bandiera www.bandiera.co.uk

HIMACS Supplier: James Latham www.lathamtimber.co.uk | [@lathamsltd](https://www.instagram.com/lathamsltd)

Fabricator: The White Wall Company www.thewhitewall.co.uk | [@twwo](https://www.instagram.com/twwo)

Material: HIMACS [Opal S302](https://www.himacs.com/en/products/Opal-S302) | [@himacseurope](https://www.instagram.com/himacseurope)

Photo credits: Josh Cameron, [Feed Me Content](https://www.feedmecontent.com)

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HIMACS

The shape of your ideas

www.lxhausys.com/eu/himacs

HIMACS 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 many advantages over conventional materials.

HIMACS 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 HIMACS.

Proud to be at the forefront of innovation, LX Hausys made Solid Surface history with the introduction of **HIMACS Ultra-Thermoforming**, a pioneering formulation which pushes the boundaries of solid surface shaping to significant new levels with 30% greater thermoplastic capability. Furthermore, **HIMACS Intense Ultra** is a groundbreaking advance that now combines the qualities of both **Intense Colour Technology** and **Ultra-Thermoforming**.

To add to the benefits of working with HIMACS, now the iconic HIMACS Alpine White, plus a wide selection of colours, come with SCS certified pre-consumer recycled content for a more sustainable product offering.

HIMACS 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 HIMACS is almost as robust as stone, it can be worked in a similar way as wood: it can be sawn, routed, drilled or sanded.

HIMACS is made using a next-generation technology, the **thermal cure**. The temperature reached during the manufacturing process sets HIMACS apart from other solid surfaces and creates a denser surface that is even sturdier, more homogeneous and more durable, and with better resistance and superior thermoforming results.

HIMACS does not absorb humidity, is highly resistant to stains and is easy to clean, maintain and repair. HIMACS is composed from premium-quality materials, ensuring a surface that is free from harmful substances such as silica, formaldehyde, VOC emissions, and nanoparticles. Prioritising health and safety, HIMACS offers peace of mind for any environment.

Countless internationally recognised certificates attest to the quality of HIMACS 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 the Alpine White S728 colour.

HIMACS offers a 15-year warranty for products fabricated by a Quality Club Member.

For more information and to stay connected, visit our [EU WEBSITE](#), [UK WEBSITE](#) and our [newsroom](#).

Let's connect!



HIMACS is designed and produced by **LX Hausys (formerly LG Hausys)**, a world leader in the technology sector and a subsidiary of LX Holdings Corp.

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