



Basotect®

Silence in the Guggenheim Museum – a perfect mixture of art, architecture and chemistry

In New York's Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Basotect® melamine foam is helping to create a very special sense of peace. In the installation, **PSAD Synthetic Desert III**, artist Doug Wheeler has created a silent refuge in one of the ten loudest cities in the world.

Within the museum, the exhibit space was specially created so that ambient noise is almost completely suppressed. This utter silence is aided by the presence of Basotect® sound-absorbent foam that made up 400 pyramids and 600 wedges that cover the floor, walls and ceiling of the room.

"Silence as we know it can be measured at 30 decibels, but the noise level in Wheeler's installation is just 10-15 decibels. It's so quiet, you can practically hear your own heartbeat," says Doyle Robertson, a specialist in melamine foams at BASF North America, who was also a corporate sponsor of the exhibit.

The exhibition gives an example of how BASF products enable the marriage of art, architecture and chemistry. Due to Basotect®'s versatility of form and its extraordinary sound absorption, the melamine foam inspires architects, designers and acousticians to create acoustically perfect aesthetic spaces.

According to Jörg Hutmacher, VP of Sales for pinta acoustic, who manufactured the parts for the exhibit, "Due to Basotect®'s properties and design capabilities, it was an ideal choice for the Guggenheim exhibit. I am not aware of any other product that could have been used to do what the artist envisioned."

