“Splash!” Sculpture made with Basotect® in Indoor Swimming Center

Case Study

The Betty T. Ferguson recreation Center in Florida, USA, is using BASF’s melamine foam Basotect® to enhance acoustics for swimmers and visitors. The unique sculpture “Splash!” features colorful cylinders made with Basotect®, which line the ceiling in the swimming center.

The new sculpture “Splash!” addresses a common problem associated with most indoor pools: a high level of background noise caused by reflected sound waves. For the recreation center in Florida, artist Xavier Cortada envisioned a design composed of scattered pool noodles that would resemble a splash of water on the ceiling. He realized his idea by designing the sculpture with colorful Basotect®-based cylinders.

Being exceptional light-weight is only one out of many beneficial properties that make Basotect® the product of choice. The foam can be processed into a wide variety of shapes and colors, offering a high degree of design freedom for designers and architects. Installations with Basotect® achieve high sound absorption in the medium and high frequency range due to its open-cell structure. This reduces the overall noise level, which benefits observers, and increases speech intelligibility so that participants in fitness and swimming lessons are now able to understand instructions better.

“Prior to the installation we did some acoustical testing. The entire pool area was an echo chamber. After the installation of “Splash!” the effect was so audibly noticeable there was no need to do further testing”, says Cortada. Basotect® is also resistant to fungal and microbial growth and can withstand humid conditions characteristic of indoor swimming pools.

The colorful baffles were produced by BASF partner pinta acoustic in Minnesota and were installed simply with cork-screw attachments that hang from the ceiling.