

# JOB REFERENCE

Augsburg, 04.08.2014

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PCI Augsburg GmbH: transparent laying of natural salt slabs

## **A wellness oasis made entirely of salt**

In Trinwillershagen, not far from the Baltic coast, Karin and Axel Günther have built a wellness oasis made entirely of salt. A salt crystal was the model for the 16-cornered ground plan of the Salztürme (salt towers), covering an area of about 100 m<sup>2</sup>. They had 38 tonnes of salt imported from Pakistan for the interior covering. 32 tonnes were installed as tiles, blocks and bricks. On the ground floor and the first floor, salt slabs with a red sheen and irregular quarry stone masonry were to cover the walls and floors. For the massage and wellness area on the second floor, the owners opted for translucent, almost white halite salt.

The processing of these natural stone materials represented a real challenge, especially as the wall covering was to be backlit. The team of owners, contractor and PCI advisers could not call upon a great deal of experience with the laying of salt slabs. Like the acrylic glass substrate, the tile adhesive needed to be transparent at the same time as offering considerable adhesive strength and being inert to the chlorides in the natural salt. Conventional tile adhesives could therefore not be used. With the expert support of PCI adviser Götz Hirseland and PCI application technician Andreas Albert, the project was realized as follows.

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On the plinth, the Himalaya salt was installed as quarry stone masonry with the epoxy binder PCI Bauharz, mixed with silica sand. For the walls, the contractor initially positioned wooden laths as a substructure and integrated the lighting system with a total of 19,995 lamps. The acrylic glass cladding provided a strong, transparent substrate for the salt slabs. With a density of about 2.1 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, the salt material is sufficiently compact to allow wet cutting and drilling. The covering was anchored to the load-bearing substrate at certain points. The Himalaya salt material from Pakistan was laid in various different sizes. The halite salt tiles had a size of about 24 x 12 x 5 cm. In order to ensure optimum curing times for construction progress, PCI Epoxigrund Rapid was used as a fast-curing binder. For the non-sag installation of the salt slabs, the adhesive was mixed with PCI Stellmittel. Using this non-sag floating agent, the salt slabs could be rapidly installed on the substrate without any problems and without impairing the transparency of the covering.

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## Project data:

<b>Project</b>	<b>A wellness oasis made entirely of salt</b>
Subtitle	PCI Augsburg GmbH: transparent laying of natural salt slabs
Place	Trinwillershagen
Completed	2012
The challenge	Installation of natural salt slabs with backlighting
Project size	Wall surfaces: approx. 150 m <sup>2</sup>
Products used	PCI Epoxigrund Rapid, PCI Stellmittel, PCI Bauharz
Owners	Karin and Axel Günther
Architect/construction supervisor	Dipl.-Ing. Rolf Günther, Büro für Architektur und Stadtplanung
Construction contractor	Uwe Krempien Bauunternehmen
Specialist advisers	PCI specialist adviser Götz Hirseland PCI application technician Andreas Albert
Contact person:	<b>PCI Augsburg GmbH</b> Piccardstraße 11 86159 Augsburg Tel.: +49 (0) 821 5901-0 Fax: +49 (0) 821 5901-459 Email: <a href="mailto:pci-info@basf.com">pci-info@basf.com</a> <a href="http://www.pci-augsburg.de">www.pci-augsburg.de</a>

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## Images (for download; purpose "PI")



The salt towers of Trinwillershagen: a wellness oasis made of wood, clay and salt.

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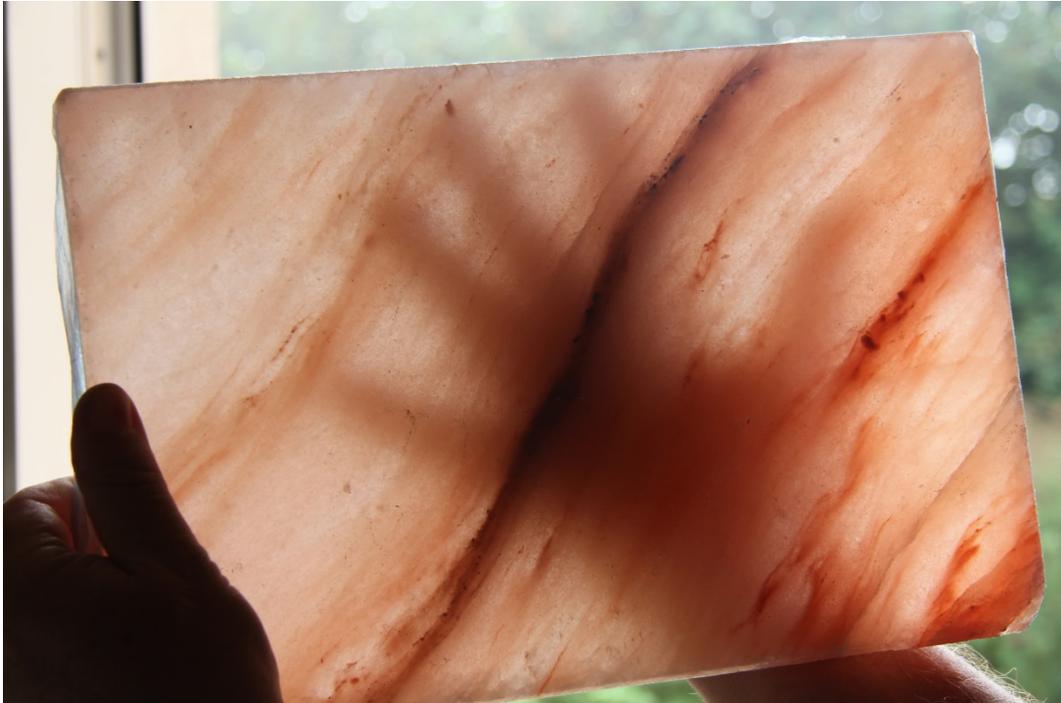
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A total of 38 tonnes of salt were imported from Pakistan for the interior covering. On the plinth in the ground floor and the first floor, the salt was installed as quarry stone masonry, on the walls as tiles.

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Owner and contractor at the jobsite: The salt slabs can be rapidly and easily installed with a non-sag mortar from PCI Epoxigrund Rapid, PCI Stellmittel and PCI Bauharz.

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The backlit salt slabs create a warm atmosphere. The visitors of the salt towers take a deep breath here – accompanied by romantic lighting effects and soft nature sounds.

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Just like the Himalaya salt, the halite salt slabs from the Salt Range in Pakistan are directly installed on the acrylic glass cladding and backlit.

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The customers and patients can visit the massage and wellness areas on the second of the salt towers.

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## **About PCI**

*PCI Augsburg GmbH is part of the business unit Construction Chemicals of BASF and leader in the tile laying materials sector for specialist firms in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. In addition, the company supplies product systems for waterproofing, concrete protection and repair, as well as a complete product range for the soft flooring sector. PCI employs a staff of about 800 and generated sales of over €200 million net in 2012. Further information about PCI on the Internet under [www.pci-augsburg.de](http://www.pci-augsburg.de).*

## **About BASF**

*BASF is the world's leading chemical company: The Chemical Company. Its portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Through science and innovation, we enable our customers in nearly every industry to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring nutrition and improving quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF had sales of about €74 billion in 2013 and over 112,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at [www.basf.com](http://www.basf.com).*

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