



## Tilt-up Panels

The common perception that concrete is cold and aesthetically-unpleasing is being challenged by Pan Mixers South Africa (PMSA) – the largest supplier of concrete, brick, block and paving making machinery and technology in Africa. The company is currently in the process of constructing a modern, cutting-edge showroom almost entirely from concrete.

PMSA marketing and sales manager Quintin Booysen points out that they began construction of their new two-

storey 700 m<sup>2</sup> showroom, which will also house a sales and marketing office in order to fully highlight the endless creative possibilities that concrete offers in modern day construction.

“The showroom flooring will be completed with HTC Superfloor, an easy-to-maintain polished concrete flooring system that provides the highest shine to the floor surface, by making use of a range of HTC floor grinding machines and accessories,” he explains.

Quintin notes that PMSA will be going one step further by using HTC Superfloor to polish a number of concrete pull-up walling panels that will make up the showroom walls and main reception staircase. “A polishing and grinding

machine weighs up to 300 kg and would be impossible to run against a wall. Another option would be to use a hand-held grinding tool, however that would not ensure a precision finish. PMSA plans to polish its precast panels using the HTC Superfloor system, before pulling them up by making use of a tilt-up method,” he continues.

This process will be subject to a number of challenges, due to the fact that each panel weighs up to seven tons. “These panels have to be pulled up into the right position, and they need to be positioned in such a way to ensure that they are not just decorative, but also that they are structural elements of the room. After 14 days of curing, the concrete panels are lifted with the aid of a 20-ton mobile crane and placed into final position.”

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