



Higher plane

Time to deck out a private jet? **Helen Massy-Beresford** explores offerings from the finest aircraft interior specialists Lufthansa Technik, F. List Interiors, Boutsen Interiors and Aeria Aircraft Interiors – along with Italian custom leathers by Foglizzo

With a competitive interior aircraft decor market driving standards through the stratosphere, now is a good time to get a fresh look – especially for those jetsetters with refined taste for the time capsule.

Private jet manufacturers and aircraft interiors specialists are creating increasingly luxurious and

Above: The sky is the limit for upgrading private jet interiors – from tens of thousands to hundreds of millions – but feeling at home in the air is essential

innovative techniques to ensure those flying feel at home in the skies.

“We’re seeing growing demand for sleek, sporty interiors, often with carbon fibre elements incorporated in the design,” says Wieland Timm, Vice President Corporate Sales VIP & Special Mission Aircraft at Lufthansa Technik.

The market is driving towards a replica of home-comforts onboard their aircraft, whether that means more space, fitness and well-being facilities or top-notch entertainment.

Lufthansa Technik has recently teamed up with Mercedes-Benz to develop interiors, which, alongside futuristic technologies borrowed from the world of automotive and an ultra-modern feel, includes a fully-equipped kitchen enabling an onboard chef to whip up healthy and fresh meals.

Business people are looking for all the comfort of home – at cruise altitude – and jet interior companies are starting to prioritise leisure time. Lufthansa Technik’s Airbus A350 cabin design includes a gym and full spa. “If customers are flying long routes

they want to do their exercise – the idea is that they’re relaxing while they’re using the aircraft, not only working,” Timm says.

How much does a fully bespoke private jet interior cost? Insight into the top end comes courtesy of foglizzo.com – one of the most-respected aviation interior suppliers in the world. The company, which first opened its doors in 1921, has built a reputation on delivering outstanding custom leathers.

For luxury interiors of this calibre, the leathers alone can range from approximately US\$150,000 to \$300,000 per square meter. Take the Airbus A319 CJ, for example – which has a cabin size of 80 sq.m – the final interior renovation could cost around \$100 million, although there are less exorbitant options.

At the EBACE business aviation show in May, Boutsen Aviation displayed a Dassault Falcon 7X, kitted out by sister ➤

company Boutsen Design – the only 7X in the world to feature a shower.

Austrian interiors specialist F/LIST offer real heated stone flooring, non-dimpling soft linings (that mean fingerprints disappear from upholstered surfaces within seconds), as well as laser technology that empowers brand-aligned jet owners to engrave a logo onto wood, stone or glass.

F/LIST is not the only company to work with innovative materials and techniques – San Antonio, Texas-based Aeria Luxury Interiors has installed 3D printing technology in its facilities to create unique parts for individual cabin interior designs.

F/LIST is also wise to increasing demand for connectivity with on-board use of personal electronic devices to be incorporated seamlessly into the cabin set-up.

For those who prefer their in-flight entertainment on a grand scale, Lufthansa Technik is also developing a big screen for films and games, as well as panoramic views, provided by an external camera – the 2-3-metre screen will be available on any aircraft

type with a cabin space large enough to accommodate it, Timm says.

But even the most aesthetically perfect cabin is nothing without comfort to match. F/LIST's joint venture with Lufthansa Technik, INAIRVATION, also offers a versatile and innovative seat which can track, recline, swivel and be configured in multiple positions. Height and width can be adjusted, as can the number of backrest ribs, while various designs of optional foot- and arm-rests are available.

"Sabrina Monte-Carlo takes a personalised approach to its cabin designs," explains Michele Flandin, marketing manager of the Monaco-based firm.

"It always starts with a face-to-face conversation with the clients. It is very important to understand their tastes and perhaps also a little bit of their lives, as this can indicate the type of decoration that would suit them."

How the jet will be used is also key to the perfect interior design – will customers be flying their children off on summer holidays or conducting business



meetings onboard, or all of the above?

"A favourite object can be the starting point of an area onboard a jet," Flandin says. "Some clients give us complete 'carte blanche' which is very exciting but is also a real challenge. In any case, we always advise and bring our expertise, be it in the different available materials, colours,

textures, the art of mixing, the latest trends and last but not least, technical issues."

Sabrina Monte-Carlo is helping to shape market behaviour and react to shifting demands.

"Wood comes from controlled forests and is nowadays often replaced by synthetic wood," she explained.

"Faux shagreen accessories are in, imitation crocodile trays are chic and this is not only a new trend, it translates a way of life as a whole.

"Jet owners are more and more concerned about environmental preservation and are eager to play a role in safeguarding nature and its endangered species." ■



Top: Leather installation by Foglizzo in an ACJ319 dining room **Above:** Airbus A350 VIP 'Welcome Home' massage retreat by Lufthansa Technik AG **Left:** Luxurious living space inside an A319 with leathers designed by Sylvain Mariat for Foglizzo