



SUPERSONIC CABINS

The second generation of supersonic commercial flights is coming, and the cabin designs look set to build on those of the legendary Concorde, finds Jennifer Coutts Clay

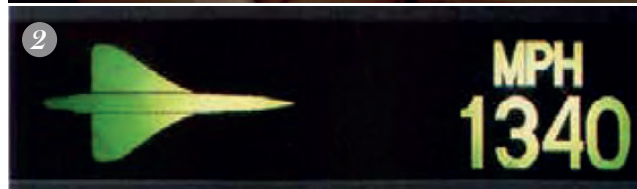
Second-generation supersonic aircraft development (as reported in previous issues of *Aircraft Interiors International*) has given cabin designers unprecedented opportunities to showcase advanced materials and innovative methods – manufacturing and installation processes unavailable during the early days of Concorde.

Examples include regular-size, instantly dimmable windows (instead of Concorde's basic window panes measuring just 6.5 x 4.5in); ease of accessibility (Concorde's 16in aisle width posed problems for mobility-impaired passengers); LED mood lighting (instead of warm white/cool white fluorescent tubes running along the ceiling panels in Concorde's cabins); and almost limitless, multiscreen in-flight entertainment options and virtual reality headsets (instead of Concorde's purely audio-channel content).

This new generation of supersonic aircraft cabins can also benefit from advances such as cabin coatings that are resistant to dents, marks and scratches; recyclable carpets, modular floor tiles and non-textile hard floor coverings; seats with microclimate features, massage facilities and lightweight seat foams that can be contoured to any shape; sustainably sourced, stain-resistant seat cover fabrics that adjust automatically to balance body temperature needs; and wi-fi enablement, PED connectivity and stress-reducing noise-cancellation systems.



You can download the e-book on Amazon, Apple iTunes and Google Play



1. ONLY AUDIO-CHANNEL LIFE CONTENT WAS AVAILABLE ON CONCORDE

2. HOWEVER, THE SPEED INDICATOR ON THE FRONT BULKHEAD WAS ESSENTIAL VIEWING

Further advantages include antimicrobial surface treatments and UV lights to sanitize heavy-use areas; stylish bathrooms with touchless water-supply and garbage-disposal units; upgraded galleys with induction stove tops for onboard chefs to cook fresh meals; and biodegradable catering accessories and easily maneuverable galley trolleys.

Those flyers lucky enough to have experienced supersonic flight before will hope for cabin pressure to be maintained at Concorde's extremely comfortable level of about 5,500ft, and they will certainly welcome technological and green developments in the cabin environment.

However, there might be a revolt if airlines ventured to serve next-generation superfoods, as lauded by health gurus (e.g. fermented-seed chips with antioxidant powders). The *crème de la crème* clientele would never want to relinquish the superlative menus and dining standards pioneered for Concorde by chefs such as Alain Ducasse, the Roux brothers and Anton Mosimann. From the passenger perspective, these star chefs are the enduring guardians of the legacy of the glory days of Concorde. ✕

JENNIFER COUTTS CLAY



Jennifer Coutts Clay is the author of *Jetliner Cabins: Evolution & Innovation*, available on Amazon, Apple iTunes and Google Play. This e-book app provides details of hundreds of aircraft cabins.

As controller of corporate identity at British Airways, Jennifer was responsible for the cabin refurbishment and upgrade of the airline's supersonic fleet, as well as its subsonic fleets.

FREE READER INQUIRY SERVICE
To request more details from *Jetliner Cabins*, visit www.ukimediaevents.com/info/aim

Supplier showcase

SEKISUI SPI: The latest developments at this thermoplastics giant: design thinking and manufacturing breakthroughs are sparking innovation

092

RECARO AIRCRAFT SEATING: Find out more about the BL3710 seat, a design which Recaro says is setting new standards in economy class through ergonomics and comfort

096

DIEHL AVIATION: This large aviation concern is working to make the aircraft cabin a more cohesive and efficient environment, in terms of branding and technology

100

AVIOINTERIORS: The Italian seating manufacturer is developing new seating models across several classes, applying ideas from fresh new talent

104

GF MACHINING SOLUTIONS: A newly developed laser texturing technology is enabling passengers' senses to be further engaged with a new type of cabin design

108

HAECO CABIN SOLUTIONS: Purpose-driven design and attention to detail make the difference in the Vector Premium seating platform

112

GOGO: The inflight connectivity expert discusses why airlines should keep an open mind when it comes to their inflight ecosystem

116

AEROFOAM INDUSTRIES: The quality of seating foam is a critical element in the comfort of aircraft seating. Aerofoam continues to innovate in this area

120

ELEATHER: Airlines the world over are making a switch to ELeather from conventional fabric seat covers. Here's why...

124

TAPIS: Unbeatable comfort and ultimate performance: Tapis and Ultrafabrics are bringing the science of seating comfort into aviation seating

126

ROHI: 85 years of experience in domestic and commercial furniture has given rohi deep knowledge of how to make a cabin feel like a home

128

EMBRAER: The Brazilian airframer discusses why the E-Jet E2 cabin enables passengers to take control of their personal in-seat environment

130

BOLTARON: This company is creating eco-friendly, long-lasting and lightweight performance plastics for the aircraft interiors industry

132

ASTRONICS: Whether technologies are for crew engagement or content streaming, stowage space monitoring or device charging, Astronics and its subsidiaries have the answers

134

STELIA AEROSPACE: The seat manufacturer discusses how reliability and performance are in its DNA, as shown in its delivery record and innovations

136

MUIRHEAD LEATHER: The Scotland-based leather supplier explains the benefits of genuine leather as a seating material, especially when produced in a 'green' way

138

TRUE BLUE POWER: This technology company has developed a range of efficient charging solutions to meet growing demand for USB and wall outlet power

140

JETLINER CABINS: If you enjoyed the look back at 50 years of the Boeing 747 on p38, Jetliner Cabins has a lot more to offer in an in-depth e-book

142

