



SUPERSONIC CABINS

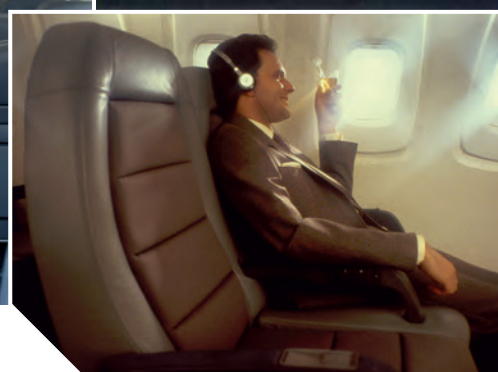
The second generation of supersonic commercial flights is coming, and the cabin designs look set to build on those of the legendary Concorde, finds Jennifer Coutts Clay

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 that were unavailable during the early days of Concorde.

Examples include regular-size, instantly dimmable windows (instead of Concorde's basic window panes measuring just 6.5in by 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,

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contourable 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.

Further advantages include anti-microbial 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 bio-degradable 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. fungus adaptogen compounds and fermented-seed crisps 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.

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



Ode to Concorde

Ode to Concorde

is an original short film about Concorde featuring all newly shot HD footage and specially created animation.



Director: Chris Purcell
Produced by: Paul Darter
spiritoconcorde.com



Jennifer Coutts Clay shares her insights on the history of supersonic flight in documentary film *Ode to Concorde*.

Coutts Clay, who worked on the Concorde program while serving as British Airways Controller Corporate Identity is also Associate Producer of the film.

The documentary, directed by Chris Purcell, celebrates one of the most iconic and inspiring technological achievements of the 20th Century. Featuring all new and specially created imagery with bespoke CG modelling and recreation sequences, the film is a fresh look through the supersonic aircraft accompanied by stories from test pilots, aircrew, artists and designers. The film also features one of the Concorde's biggest fans and frequent flyer: 007 Sir Roger Moore.

Selected for screening at the Architecture Design Art Film Festival (ADAFF) in Palm Springs, CA February 23, 2018.

Visit the News and Appearances section of www.jetlinercabins.com for more information.

"The only comprehensive survey of the aircraft cabin environment from the 1970s to the present day." — *Airliner World*

JETLINER CABINS: Evolution & Innovation

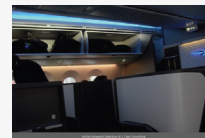
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