



## ODE TO PHIL

Jennifer Coutts Clay pays tribute to Philip George, one of the world's most influential airline design specialists

Read Jennifer Coutts Clay's fascinating Concorde story on our website



Philip George's specialist comments appear in *Jetliner Cabins*, Jennifer's e-book app, available on Amazon, Apple iTunes and Google Play. More information at [www.jetlinercabins.com](http://www.jetlinercabins.com)

With the recent passing of Philip George – known to all as Phil – the aviation world has lost one of the most important and influential airline design specialists of the jet-age era.

Press reports have focused on his designs for famous restaurants, but Phil's permanent legacy lies in the aviation sector: for decades his achievements have been emulated by airlines globally.

At Pan Am, Phil had many pioneering ideas, including the first use of giant letters for the livery scheme; introducing luxurious leather-and-sheepskin covers for the first stretch-out seats in first class; the launch of Clipper Class, the first dedicated, branded business class cabin; and the first business-style cabin treatment for economy class (instead of tourist-type furnishings).

Full disclosure: as general manager of product design and development at Pan Am, my responsibilities included the implementation of Phil's innovative concepts. I am indebted to Phil and his wife Gail; it was a privilege to work alongside them.

Phil's background encompassed engineering, architecture and US Air Force service. At Braniff he introduced the first all-leather seat covers throughout the aircraft, along with amazing color combinations for furnishings, lighting, uniforms and airport facilities. At

Air Florida Phil incorporated riotous tropical-plant patterns in the interior-design schemes – directly challenging the dark brown, military-style treatments used by Eastern, the rival airline at Miami. Other exciting designs by Phil flew on airlines in the Middle East and Caribbean. ✕

BELOW: PHIL GEORGE'S GROUNDBREAKING PAN AM CLIPPER CLASS CABIN IDEAS RAISED THE GAME IN BUSINESS CLASS TRAVEL. IMAGES COURTESY OF PAN AM/GEORGE DESIGN STUDIO



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