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CAVIAR AFFAIR

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TRAVEL IN STYLE
BY AIR,
LAND AND SEA

velocity



Talon Air's business traveler-friendly private jets combine efficiency and comfort.

High Design

**Interior design takes flight
in some of the world's most
luxurious jets** By Zoe Settle

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT WHEN IT COMES TO AFFLUENCE. So how do the kings of Wall Street and titans of Silicon Valley prefer to surround themselves at 10,000 feet? We asked the designers who outfit their jets' interiors how they meet the demands of décor's most discerning clients.

"One of the major differences in designing an aircraft versus a home is the strict FAA regulations the materials must adhere to," says Jamie Drake, a NYC-based designer whose



PHOTOS: ©TALON AIR

Talon Air's clients value connectivity and thoughtful amenities.

clients include New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "This means more treatments and testing of materials that we don't factor into residential interiors, while still creating a space that reflects the clients individual needs and taste." Interestingly, it's a taste that tends to be different in the air than on the ground. While Drake's clients usually turn to him for exuberant colors, the same clients' color preference in air-born interiors skews toward beiges and earth tones. Alex Wilcox, the CEO of Jet Suite, which operates a fleet of Phenom 100 and CJ3 planes, also notes the demand for a "light, neutral color scheme to provide sensory comfort." The desired

The interiors of the Jet Suite Edition CJ3 feature a monochromatic ivory palette and rich leather in response to the desire for soothing, neutral colors and luxurious materials.



comforts also extend to rich leather seating and strategically placed amenities, like Bose headphones and fine wine.

Perhaps the need for serenity extends from the fact that the titans on board often work throughout their flights. According to Paul St. Lucia of boutique charter operator Talon Air, high-powered clients value the latest in connectivity above all else. “No one wants to be out of touch. By far, WiFi is the most requested amenity.”

Steffani Aarons, principal designer at DHD Architecture and Design, echoes the need for serenity and efficiency but also luxury. Aarons’ first project involved designing the interior of an 11-seat Bombardier for a transportation executive. “I expected that only a limited range of fabrics and materials would meet the strict fire and weight codes; instead, I saw that smart luxury brands were producing materials that met these high standards. We used custom wool and silk rugs from Edward Fields and Stark, Edelman leathers, custom cashmere throws and pillows, specialized high-gloss wood veneers and rare marble in the kitchen and bathroom. Everything has to fit a definitive place, and you want to utilize every inch to its fullest, which involves the highest level of craftsmanship.”

Although practical amenities and luxe finishes tend to be priorities, sheer opulence is often demanded as well. Los

Angeles-based Martyn Lawrence Bullard, whose clients include Sir Elton John and Cher turn to him for over-the-top interiors, relishes the unique challenges and opportunities that come with personalizing jets. “You get to add unbelievable moments of luxury, making the space both glamorous and, above all, really comfortable,” Bullard says. “I’ve commissioned porcelain and crystal, and covered walls in panels of cashmere trimmed in suede, sourcing the highest-quality eight-ply cashmere. For one client, we scanned images of his art collection to scroll through on the flatscreen TVs. These spaces are the ultimate luxury and, as a designer, you draw upon even more creativity than in residential projects in order to distinguish one of these interiors from the next.”

While aerial projects tend to be less eccentric than his perennially photographed domestic ones, Bullard says there’s ample opportunity for creativity. “I always add a bit of color, maybe subtly in a custom weave on accent pillows or trim without being over the top. I’m dying to commission an artist like Damien Hirst or Banksy to do a mural that we’ll upholster on the interior. A plane itself is a work of art in terms of its design and capabilities, and I can’t think of anything more deserving for a gobsmacking work of real art.” ❖