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CONSTANT AVIATION UPGRADES GLOBAL EXPRESS WITH ART DECO THEME

In April 2014, Constant Aviation began design work on a Global Express. The client wanted the aircraft to be completely reconfigured, upgraded and finished in an art deco style. The Global Express arrived at the company's facility in Cleveland, Ohio, USA, in June 2014 and was redelivered in September 2014.

The aircraft now features a refurbished crew rest area; a redesigned forward galley; a lounge area with redesigned seats; a reconfigured dining area with a four-place dining club plus two extra seats housed in a custom credenza; a reconfigured theater room at the aft with a divan, single seat and a 42in high-definition monitor housed in a custom unit; plus a redesigned aft lavatory.

There is new veneer throughout, with intricate marquetry incorporating three species of wood. Seats, the divan, sidewalls and the PSU/headliner all feature new materials. There are new countertops in the lavatory and galley, a bright new carpet and new plating.





The aircraft has redesigned B/E Aerospace seats featuring electric footrests and tracking. There are five single seats, a four-place dining club, a three-place divan and a crew rest. There is also a two-place kibitzer, but this is not certified for use during taxi, take-off and landing.



Honeywell's Ovation Select CMS was chosen. Equipment includes touchscreen passenger control units, high-definition LCD monitors, a Blu-ray player, satellite TV, an external camera system, 3D moving map, audio on-demand, and an all-digital surround-sound speaker system.



Three species of veneer from Custom Plywood were used. Other material suppliers include Garrett Leather for the seat leather; Scott Group for the carpet; Kalogridis for the diamond-quilted sidewall material, Deconel; and Tapis for the headliner/PSUs.

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The window reveals were enlarged to create the illusion of larger windows. Electric window shades were also installed.



Q&A: JOHN SHIRLEY,DIRECTOR OF INTERIOR PROGRAMS,
CONSTANT AVIATION

WHAT WAS THE BRIEF?

The customer wanted to reconfigure the cabin to provide areas for working, dining, sleeping and entertaining. With many of our large-cabin interior reconfigurations and refurbishments, we have found that customers want to create a unique theme for the aircraft. Here the customer requested an art deco theme. The custom pattern of the veneer inlay, the seat design, the carpet and diamond pattern on the window surrounds contribute to this design scheme.

WHAT WORK DID YOU PERFORM?

Each section of the cabin was reconfigured and finished with new materials. The galley was rebuilt to house a special liquor cabinet with lights inside, inspired by the speakeasies of the past. Seats in the lounge area were rebuilt to include a winged headrest, customized middle cushion and curved armrests. We provided multiple versions of the seat for the customer to test. The customer also wanted more seats at the dining table. Our solution was to build a custom credenza that, when open, provides two additional seats. We have called this a kibitzer. Another special aspect is the aft section of the cabin, which was turned into a theater room with the addition of a divan and a 42in high-definition flatscreen monitor.

DID YOU USE ANY NEW MATERIALS OR TECHNOLOGIES?

The most unusual aspect of this project is the inlay work. In some areas, three species of wood veneer were used. The work involved producing a digital drawing of each design, and using this to laser-cut the inlay pieces precisely. In terms of technology, we used an iPad app in the design phase of the project to show the customer a rendering of the cabin. The app even enabled us to give the customer a virtual tour of the entire cabin, so we could ensure every detail was exactly as they wanted.

WHAT ACHIEVEMENTS ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

Achieving perfection with the veneer inlay was a challenge. We also worked intensively with Kalogridis to ensure the Deconel sidewall material would work well with the other materials and the overall design. In particular, because the cabin has an eye-catching and intricate carpet design, we needed to optimize the size of the diamond shapes on the sidewalls to complement it.

WAS ALL THE WORK ACHIEVED IN-HOUSE?

All the interior, engineering, avionics and maintenance work was performed in-house at our 175,000ft² facility in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. This site incorporates six maintenance bays, a full interior modification and refurbishment facility, as well as a composite and accessory facility. The Constant Aviation network also includes facilities in Birmingham, Alabama, and Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?

We have begun another Global Express interior reconfiguration and refurbishment project. This one has a New York loft theme.