

Interiors Showcase for Business Aviation

5 Tips

to Upgrade
Your Interior
the Right Way

INSIDE

RCO Aerospace Products LLC, p. 3

Duncan Aviation, p. 4

Constant Aviation, p. 6

Flying Colours Corp., p. 7

Pentastar Aviation, p. 8



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Five Tips for Upgrading Your Interior

Aircraft interior completions and modification centers and component suppliers know the ins and outs of interiors. They offer these tips to aircraft operators upgrading the cabin.

1. Fly the aircraft first. If your flight department acquires an older aircraft, “get it in the air” before you get it into the refurbishment center, Gordon Ross, director of interiors for Pentastar Aviation, says. All aircraft have quirks. Put the plane to use to find the bugs in the interior that you will want to change at the next opportunity. This initial period will give you a better chance to take care of all the interior issues all at once.

2. Mind the mission. Eric Gillespie, executive vice president at Flying Colours Corp., recommends considering the mission of the aircraft when shopping for a new interior. Knowing whether the aircraft is used for personal travel, charter flights or business travel and who

will use the aircraft can help designers and operators find the right aesthetics and wearability needs.

3. Consider comfort. In large long-range aircraft, seats may be used as office chairs, for dining or for relaxing, Norm Starr, general manager at RCO Aerospace Products, says. RCO has developed the CloudRocker Collection of seats to give passengers more flexibility to assume different

postures for work, meals and rest in the same seat. Armrests, footrests and fabric choices, and even lighting and the sheen of woodwork, can affect comfort on longer flights, too.

4. Meet in person. While reconfiguring an aircraft, Constant Aviation toured the aircraft owner’s New York loft to understand the feel the owner wanted in the airplane, president and CEO Stephen Maiden says. In-person visits allow designers to replicate personal tastes or business culture in the aircraft. Also consider visiting your vendor’s design center. At Constant Aviation (shown above), for example, designers can show you renderings on screen, photos of previous work and fabric samples, Maiden says.

5. Plan ahead. Save time by scheduling interior work when your aircraft is going to be down for a mandated avionics upgrade, other maintenance or an inspection. Operators aim to maximize the time they can keep the aircraft in the sky, Suzanne Hawes, completions and modifications sales representative for Duncan Aviation, says. She often schedules paint and interior work to coincide with work done by other shops. Plus, planning many months in advance allows more truly customized options, which might not be significantly more expensive than more standard options, Constant Aviation’s Maiden says.

—Justin Marciniak

Turning Dreams into Reality

Our 30,000 sq. ft. interior facility is home to extremely talented interior specialists. It also boasts a state-of-the-art design center where our interior design team can walk customers through a variety of materials and show them a mockup of their new interior.

Our interior design team travels to the customers to understand their vision for what the interior should look like. From there, the design team provides sample boards showing multiple options for all materials including carpet, leather, soft goods, veneer and plating.

Once the materials are chosen, our in-house engineering professionals are involved to ensure any necessary engineering drawings are complete for the upgrade. The team will then provide customers with 3-D renderings of the interior allowing them to see what it will look like upon completion. The goal with any interior refurbishment is to truly turn our customers' dreams into reality.

Our capabilities range from small cosmetic upgrades to full refurbishments to complete interior reconfigurations. One add-on service we offer our maintenance customers at any of our facilities is for our interior team to inspect the full aircraft and provide suggestions to the customers for interior upgrades that could be completed during the maintenance downtime.



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