finer DETAILS

FOUR PRIVATE JET INTERIOR DESIGNERS BASED IN EUROPE SHARE KEY DETAILS FROM RECENT PROJECTS: A FLOATING ORB LIGHT, A TRANSFORMABLE CHAISE LONGUE, A MODULAR SEAT ARCHITECTURE AND A MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT INSPIRED BY SAMURAI SWORDS

Elliott Koehler

creative director, JPA Design

Q&A

MAIN & INSET: THE AFTERGLOW CONCEPT BY JPA DESIGN

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE DETAIL FROM A RECENT DESIGN?

A standout detail from our Afterglow concept is the floating orb feature light, positioned behind a tinted frosted pane. Its programmed sunrise-sunset lighting sequence supports circadian rhythms and enhances passenger wellbeing. This, combined with the reconfigured rear lounge and washroom – complete with convertible double bed, minibar and full-height closet – creates a private retreat that feels genuinely human-centric.

WHAT CAN BE LEARNT FROM THIS PROJECT?

The key lesson is that wellness and functionality must be integrated from the outset, not layered on later. Our concept offers strong potential for further development in future retrofit programmes.

WHAT CRAFTS, MATERIALS OR IDEAS ARE YOU KEEN TO EXPLORE THIS YEAR?

We're keen to push further into advanced circadian lighting behaviour, materials chosen for longevity and recyclability, and more adaptive, behaviour-led cabin layouts. We're also exploring more holistic sensory design – integrating light, tactility and spatial flow to shape the emotional experience from lounge to cabin.

Christelle Dietsch

manager interior design, AMAC Aerospace

Q&A

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE DETAIL FROM A RECENT DESIGN?

It is a bespoke chaise longue area developed as part of a private jet cabin. The project began, as always, with an in-depth dialogue with the owner to understand how he lives in his aircraft – how he relaxes, works, socialises and moves within the space. Design is not simply about shaping forms or selecting materials; it is about elevating the overall onboard experience and aligning it precisely with the client's lifestyle and expectations.

The ambition was to create a multifunctional zone that allowed the owner to relax, read, work or engage socially while remaining visually and physically connected to the main cabin activity. The chaise longue emerged as a natural response – an elegant feature that preserves spatial flow while offering a comfortable, reclined position.

Two additional requirements shaped the concept: seamless access to a nearby bar area and the integration of a functional work surface. The primary challenge lay in incorporating these elements as discreetly as possible, particularly the table, which needed to be fully adjustable and usable from multiple seating positions. Close collaboration with engineering teams was crucial in developing a mechanism that allowed fluid, precise movement while remaining visually minimal. The objective was clear: the function should appear effortless, almost intuitive – engineering excellence expressed through apparent simplicity.

BELOW: THE CHAISE LONGUE CONCEPT BY AMAC AEROSPACE

Throughout the development, maintaining a balance between innovation and realism was key. While it is important to push creative boundaries, the design must also respect budget parameters, certification requirements, maintenance considerations, and the strict regulatory framework of aviation. It is our responsibility to anticipate potential operational or technical challenges early in the process.

WHAT CAN BE LEARNT FROM THIS PROJECT?

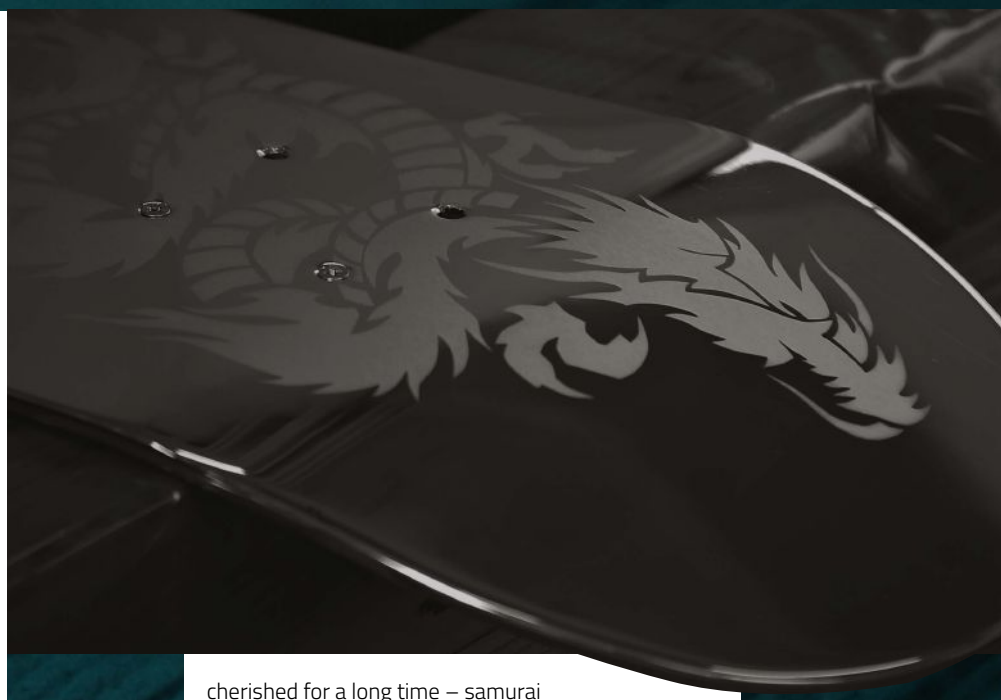
There is strong potential to further develop this concept, particularly by adapting it to meet TTOL requirements – an evolution that would introduce additional constraints but also open new opportunities for innovation in comfort, flexibility and functionality within the cabin environment.

WHAT CRAFTS, MATERIALS OR IDEAS ARE YOU KEEN TO EXPLORE THIS YEAR?

I am particularly interested in exploring adaptable design solutions inspired by the residential sector, where innovation allows spaces and furniture to transform effortlessly. In aviation, multifunctionality is essential, as an aircraft must accommodate very different uses. The ability to convert a divan into a bed or subtly reconfigure a layout is key.

Translating these concepts into the highly regulated aviation environment presents technical challenges, especially regarding certification and weight constraints. This is where advanced mechanisms, closely linked to material innovation, become crucial. New lightweight and high-performance materials allow us to push boundaries and develop solutions that were previously not achievable.

Q&A



BELOW: ETCHED STAINLESS STEEL CREATIONS BY SAK

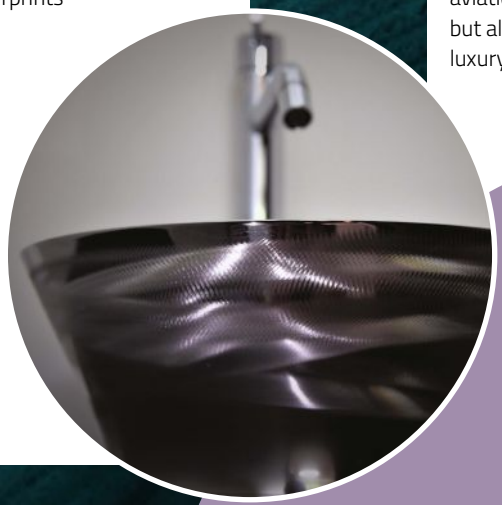
WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE DETAIL FROM A RECENT DESIGN?

We have been working on how we can use stainless steel as a viable material in our cabin interiors. Plastics and resin materials are often used to reduce weight, but these deteriorate over time, cracking and discolouring, and typically require frequent disposal and replacement. We are looking to replace these with high-quality stainless steel, which has enhanced longevity due to its hardness and its ability to be maintained through polishing. This not only reduces waste but also cuts emissions associated with manufacturing and transporting.

We are also keen to celebrate the strong connection between steel, luxury and Japanese heritage, a tenet of which is the nation's prowess with steel production – think samurai swords, forging techniques, and even luxury kitchen knives.

Altea is collaborating with Japanese manufacturer Stainless Art Kayoei (SAK) to utilise the unique techniques they've developed to polish and etch patterns and textures into stainless steel, a difficult feat on such a hard material. We are aware of steel's stigma as having a burdensome weight, but SAK can create stainless steel surfaces that are 0.4mm thick.

This year, SAK and Altea want to explore steel surface treatments inspired by Japanese traditional craftsmanship – techniques that overturn stainless steel's typical image of being a cold and industrial material. Specifically, we wish to apply textures such as vibration finishing and hammered (tsuchime) patterns with aircraft-grade precision. The result would combine practicality and aesthetics, as imperfections such as fingerprints are less noticeable and light reflections are softened on a textured surface. Additionally, the texture evokes a warm feel to the metal, which harmonises with natural materials like wood and leather.



WHAT CAN BE LEARNT FROM THIS PROJECT?

True luxury is not disposable, but something that can be cherished for a long time – samurai swords were handed from generation to generation, often being used for hundreds of years. Once you change your perception of what stainless steel can do, the possibilities are endless.

The concept of maintainable metal materials can be applied across many touchpoints in the cabin, such as galleys, handrails and decorative panels. We have ideas already in play and not just for the aviation interior market, but also high-end luxury products.

Robin Dunlop
partner, Altea

Jérôme Nelet

associate creative director, NewTerritory

Q&A

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE DETAIL FROM A RECENT DESIGN?

One of the most meaningful recent explorations was Re:Frame, a modular seat architecture developed in response to a sustainable aviation design challenge set by *Business Jet Interiors International*.

Instead of starting with aesthetics, we began with a simple question: why are aircraft seats designed to be replaced as complete units when only certain elements age or become outdated? Upgrades are often driven by technology, branding changes or wear and tear, while the core structure remains usable.

Re:Frame separates the seat into layers. The lightweight structural base is designed to last, while comfort, technology and trim components are modular. These elements can be upgraded, repaired or replaced independently. This is particularly relevant in business aviation, where cabins are frequently refurbished between owners or lease cycles.

At end of life, the seat can be disassembled into two primary material streams for easier recycling. The materials are intentional: a hemp-reinforced bio-composite structural frame reduces weight and environmental impact, while surrounding components use recycled and recyclable mono-material PET to simplify traceability and recovery.

WHAT CAN BE LEARNT FROM THIS PROJECT?

Circularity must be built into the architecture, not applied superficially. When sustainability is embedded in the system logic, it becomes durable and commercially viable.

Re:Frame is not just a concept seat – it's a demonstration of how systems thinking can redefine premium interiors for longevity, adaptability and responsible design.

BELOW: THE RE:FRAME SEAT BY NEWTERRITORY

WHAT CRAFTS, MATERIALS OR IDEAS ARE YOU KEEN TO EXPLORE THIS YEAR?

Increasingly, clients and passengers respond to material honesty over material illusion. We are interested in exploring real materials made viable for aviation performance. Suppliers are now developing ultra-light stone laminates, thin mineral composites and high-performance bonded panels that retain the thermal and tactile qualities of natural stone without the weight penalty. The cool density of real stone, the acoustic dampening of ceramics, the depth of natural fibre composites, these sensory cues create grounding in environments that are otherwise highly engineered and fast-moving.

At the other end of the spectrum, we are equally interested in structural expression. Raw metal finishes, visible grain in composites, and construction that does not hide its logic. Historically, luxury aviation has relied on concealment: wrapped edges, layered veneers, glossy surfaces masking complexity. We believe premium can now embrace performance as part of its aesthetic language. Recycled plastics, mono-material assemblies and bio-composites are no longer compromises. They are becoming part of a new premium code, where lightness signals intelligence, repairability signals quality and patina signals longevity. A material that ages well is not a defect; it is evidence of honesty.

The opportunity is to bridge two worlds that were previously seen as incompatible: high luxury and high performance. By challenging legacy visual codes and focusing on tactile, experiential authenticity, sustainable materials can move from being justified to being genuinely desirable.

BACKGROUND IMAGE: NADTYTOK28STOCKADOBE.COM