

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

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OF THE MOMENT

Two of AMAC Aerospace's completion design experts share the latest trends in materials, IFEC and more

Before a business aircraft arrives at AMAC Aerospace's headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, for cabin completion, an intense exchange has already taken place between the principal, the designer and the project manager. AMAC's in-house designers work at the forefront of these meetings and are therefore perfectly placed to share the latest trends.

"For seats and divans leather is in high demand, especially with VVIP clients," says Christelle Dietsch, aircraft interior designer. "This material offers both things the customer is looking for: the highest quality and aesthetics. In the last few years, new fabrics have entered the market, offering an almost unlimited range of hues, patterns and effects. They bring in an additional note of comfort and, combined with decorative stitching, result in a high level of elegance."

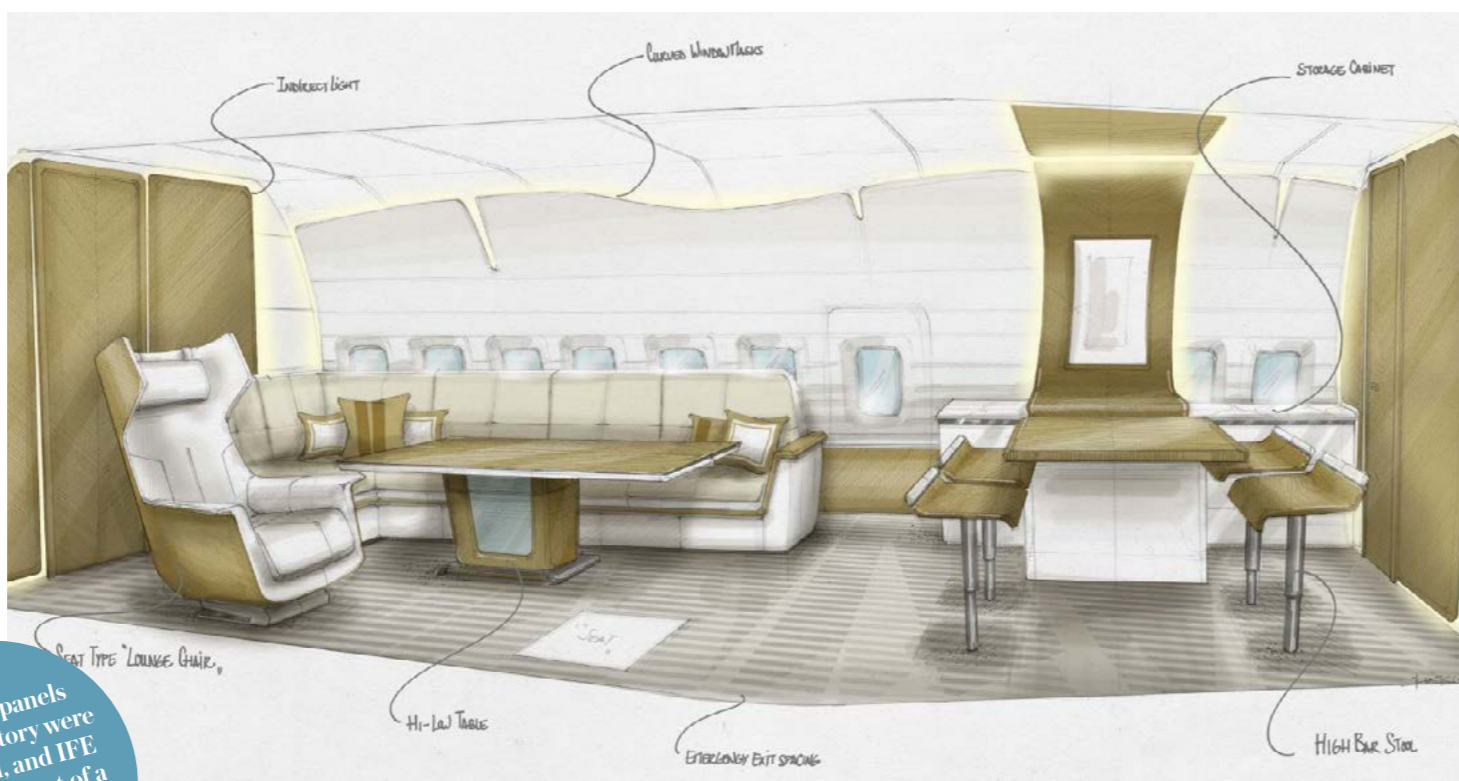
One of the most prominent elements of the cabin is the floor material.

"In their private living areas, VVIP clients prefer natural materials such as silk and wool, often designed for them," says Christian Schirlin, director, VIP completions and head of project management. "We collaborate with a group of selected carpet producers/vendors around the world that are known for their outstanding quality."

Seats, deco panels and VIP lavatory were refurbished, and IFE upgraded, as part of a B787 project delivered in April 2022

FRUITS OF THE FOREST

For cabinets, wood is the material of choice. Colours and wood grain can be matched for any scheme; however, precious (and rare) woods need to be sourced well in advance to arrive on time. "Some clients prefer a modern touch by choosing a mix of wood and carbon fibre,



or lacquer effects to create a special touch," says Schirlin. "More recently, we register a growing interest in non-varnished wood, which offers a more natural perception and touch of this sustainable material. In general, our latest completion projects show a trend to lighter colours, which widen the perception of space and create a calm atmosphere."

In wet areas such as VIP lavatories and en-suite bathrooms, real stone is preferred for its durability, hygiene and luxury. AMAC can produce very thin layers of stone veneer for countertops designed to offer

extra durability without weight penalty. For galleys, Corian or stainless steel is preferred typically for countertops, and for floors non-textile flooring is available in a vast range of colours and patterns, to meet requirements for ambiance and cleanliness.

CLEAN LIVING

Awareness around hygiene and clean air has risen dramatically in the last few years, AMAC has noticed. Antimicrobial coatings, or new materials with such a function already built in, became the new norm, along with sophisticated air filtration systems. The company says more innovations can be expected.

What other things might dominate requirements next? "Due to the pressing issue of climate change, one of the most crucial criteria to be reached by the whole industry is cabin weight reduction by means of sustainable materials and engineering innovations," says Schirlin. "Based on our solid field experience, we have evolved our methods to be more efficient for weight savings, while keeping the same degree of comfort and elegance our work is known for."

He also notes customers want the latest technologies on board, to match what they have at home: "They want to use their personal devices and watch their



BELOW: CURRENT MATERIAL TRENDS INCLUDE UNVARNISHED WOOD AND A PREFERENCE FOR LIGHTER TONES

LEFT: A CABIN CONCEPT DESIGNED BY AMAC AEROSPACE'S IN-HOUSE DESIGN TEAM

One recent AMAC project, concluded in April 2022, involved upgrading the IFE on an ACJ318, among other tasks

movies or pictures at any time on the monitors, and listen to their preferred music. Our job is to offer perfect connectivity and implement the latest generation of monitors."

Last but not least, Schirlin notes a quiet cabin is always in high demand: "In the second quarter of 2022 we returned our latest completion to service, with a cabin sound level of 45dB, which is astoundingly low; a record at AMAC Aerospace." ✪

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