

Altitudes

EUROPE

PORTRAIT

MARCO TÚLIO PELLEGRINI
EMBRAER SENIOR VP OPERATIONS
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TRENDS
COMLUX &
AIRJET DESIGNS
TWO VISIONS OF AN
ACJ INTERIOR CABIN

SUPPLIERS
HAUTE COUTURE
SAVOIR FAIRE
FOGLIZZO &
METAL COMPOSITE

VNE Bombardier Challenger 350

Super-midsize undisputed leader





Comlux & Airjet Designs

Two different approaches to outfitting the interior cabin
of Airbus ACJ family aircraft



Comlux's Indianapolis delivered last year their first completion of a green ACJ319 aircraft. Comlux Creative's Lauri Church was responsible for the design of this extremely quiet and elegant cabin, now available for charter within the FlyComlux fleet. Strikingly personalized, the Acquario by Airjet Designs is meant for private use only. Challenged by a customer to design a truly unique interior for his ACJ320 aircraft, Jean-Pierre Alfano, Creative Director of AirJet Designs, pondered the idea for some time. Hearing about the owner's latest scuba diving adventure he suggested a design with a tropical fish aquarium taking center stage.



THE ACQUARIO PROJECT: TROPICAL FISH TAKE TO THE SKY

Airjet Designs, based in the Toulouse region, creates innovative and colorful designs. According to Jean-Pierre Alfano this particular project is totally feasible! The aquarium is located in the central area of an ACJ320 aircraft between the dining and lounge area and features several species of freshwater tropical fish such as the discus and the angelfish. The lighting, filtration, heating and feeding features of the aquarium have been integrated into the

surrounding credenza. A motorized mechanism for raising and lowering the aquarium facilitates the cleaning and maintenance of the tank. The aquarium has been designed to withstand flight turbulence loads and variations of cabin pressure while flying at over 30,000 feet. A specially designed watertight canopy and cover prevent the aquarium water from spilling. The aircraft also features a unique bathroom with a transparent shower stall. The glass separation between bedroom and bathroom not only gives

this area of the cabin a spacious feeling, but also integrates a new generation transparent OLED TV monitor. The TV connects to the onboard Wifi system and when turned off, the glass becomes transparent again.

CABIN WALK THROUGH

The aircraft is designed to fly a group of 8 passengers with 2 flight attendants. The layout consists of an entrance area with galleys, a lavatory, crew rest area with storage cabinets, a forward facing seating area, a dining



Forward facing seating area, with a wool and silk hand-tufted carpet in a sand color with circular blue simulated waves and water ripples

section, a lounge, a private bedroom and a bathroom with shower.

The furniture design is modern with clean, minimal lines and is complemented by a color and material selection dominated by white Italian full-grain leather, zebra wood, white Carrara marble, and Satin Nickel trim. The wool and silk hand-tufted carpet was designed in a sand color with circular blue forms simulating waves and water ripples.

A coral decorative motif of polished metallic inlays runs through the cabin on the valance panels. Dedicated art-

work and tropical fish ornaments along with vivid colored cushions add color to the cabin interior, carrying out the underwater sea life theme.

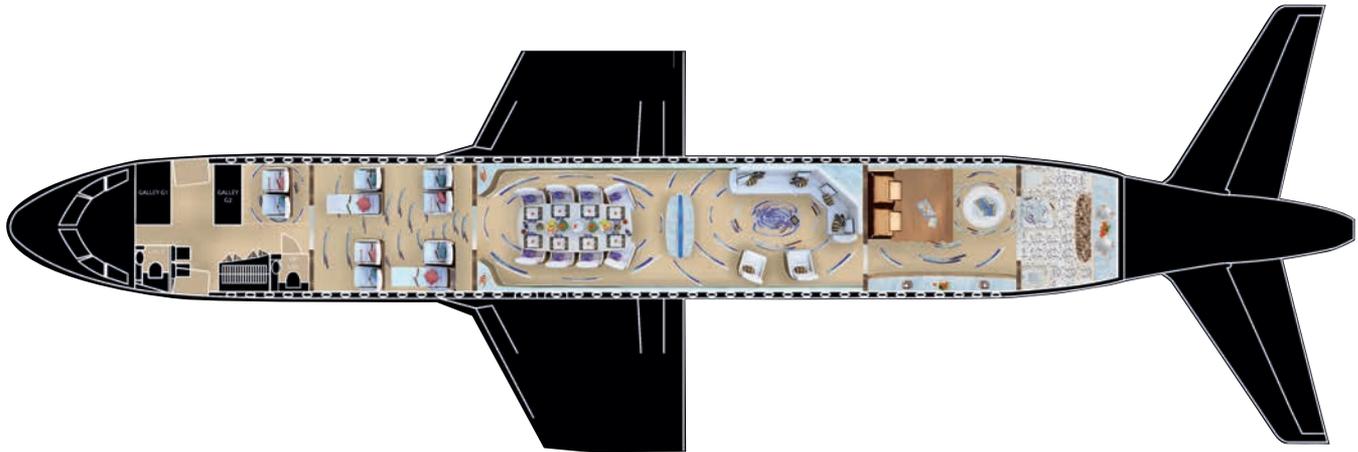
THE DESIGN PROCESS

Following the initial design briefing, the aircraft layout was defined to accommodate a group of 8 passengers and 2 flight attendants with amenities allowing for long-haul overnight flights, and a VIP section composed of a private bedroom and bathroom. Once several possibilities had been investigated,

Jean-Pierre Alfano decided to make the aquarium the central focus of the interior. In order to address weight and balance certification issues it is located over the wing-box of the aircraft. Airworthiness and certification requirements include all the necessary safety and maintenance functions.

SEAT DESIGN INSPIRATION

Once the layout was frozen, Alfano drew his inspiration from organic forms and shapes found in underwater sea life, such as seashells, corals, and fish. Sitting



inside a mother-of-pearl rounded shell inspired the styling for the seats. A modern and sleek upholstery design was then defined with metallic inlays accenting stitching lines on the backrest and seat. The composite shell is covered with a mother-of-pearl iridescent, metalized finish. For the lie-flat seats in the seating area, a brown-suede lining is applied to the seat shell to increase the feeling of warmth and cocooning.

BEDROOM & BATHROOM

The intention was to make the most of this confined space by providing a sense of openness. The designers opted for a transparent partition separ-

ating the bedroom and bathroom, with cabinetry and certain sidewalls lined in 'zebra' wood. A transparent OLED TV screen was integrated into the shower stall partition, providing video entertainment if needed. The bedroom is fitted with a king-size bed with brown leather headboard and a white leather pouf. A coral-shaped metallic ceiling light provides an additional touch of fun.

The bathroom features mosaic tiles in white, grey, and blue tones, with a dual-sink vanity finished in lacquered-white with a white marble top. The large backlit mirror above the vanity gives a sensation of space and added dimension.

LOUNGE AREA

The lounge area features a large corner divan with two shell seats covered in full-grain Italian leather with metallic satin nickel inserts. The coffee table floats on a plated metal base fitted with an aviation glass top. The lounge connects directly to the dining area with passageways around the aquarium, thus continuing the sensation of spaciousness in the cabin. A custom-made ceiling light in a shell-like shape with a wave-like motif is placed above the lounge area.

DINING AREA

The dining area features a large center table. The 8 chairs nestled around it can equally be used for dining or working. Two tropical fish sculptures adorn the dining area side ledge, opposite to the aquarium. Carefully chosen tableware and accessories along with colorful seat cushions add style to the room.

Organic forms and shapes found in underwarter sea life inspired the design



FORWARD SEATING AREA

The forward seating features fully reclinable double seats similar to those in the lounge and dining areas. Designed for relaxing and sleeping, this area provides entertainment possibilities through the use of iPad tablets supported by removable seat mounts in the seat armrests.

TROPICAL FISH TAKE TO THE SKY

Taken with the idea of creating the first aircraft cabin interior with a tropical fish aquarium taking center stage, the owner has approved the design. This colorful aircraft is scheduled to be completed in mid-2015. ■