

BusinessJet *interiors* INTERNATIONAL

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THE INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF BUSINESS JET INTERIOR DESIGN AND COMPLETION



Niki Lauda

GIVES US A TOUR OF HIS NO-HOLDS-BARRED CREATION

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BIOGRAPHY

Jean-Pierre Alfano, AirJet Designs

Jean-Pierre Alfano is the founder and creative director of AirJet Designs. The company specializes in corporate, VIP and head-of-state aircraft interior design. The team includes industrial and interior designers, trim and color specialists and 3D artists. As part of the Aero Experts Group, the designers also benefit from the experience of aircraft interior certification engineers working alongside them.

Over the past 15 years, Alfano has worked on various completions – from small and mid-size jets to wide-body Boeing and Airbus aircraft.

Born in France to Italian parents, Alfano spent his childhood in France and Italy, with one foot in each culture. He completed various levels of his education in France, Italy and the USA. He holds a Masters degree in product design and engineering, and is a recognized EASA aircraft cabin certification expert.



JEAN-PIERRE ALFANO: People who are not familiar with aircraft constraints often ask: “If money is no limit, why can’t we have a pool in the aircraft, and why can’t I move the furniture around like in my house or yacht?” Part of my role is to explain how certification requirements impact the design. I also make my clients aware of maintenance issues. You need to use materials that are easy to clean and will not break easily, because repairs are particularly expensive in this field.

The challenge is to combine creativity, comfort and aesthetics within the limits of time, budget, airworthiness issues and weight concerns. You need to be creative; clients want something different and custom made. But you also need to consider the budget and timescale. For example, you will have to go with standard seat structures if you want a controlled delivery time.

YVES PICKARDT: Our unique remit is to help passengers enjoy their flight in comfort and joy, while knowing that the attention to creative design is unsurpassed and all technological and security measures have been adhered to.

The cost of a completion is unique as well. Aircraft design is priced higher per square meter than yachts and residences. We strive to make the most of every dollar spent, because nothing can be changed once the critical design review has been held. No mistakes are possible. It is a tightrope walk with no net.

WARJA BORGES: Designing interiors for VIP aircraft is more challenging than normal interior architecture because of the space limitations, the tube shape and all the regulations and requirements you have to meet. But these challenges are exactly why I love my work and what makes this business so special to me.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT VIP AIRCRAFT INTERIOR DESIGN AS OPPOSED TO OTHER SECTORS YOU HAVE WORKED IN?

JOOST WULFFRAAT: With a jet cabin, the design alone is not enough. We have to be very specific about materials, otherwise the design will not obtain the necessary airworthiness certification. Our combined 20 years of aviation experience has taught us which materials and features are airworthy. That helps us to stay on time and under budget. Without an in-depth knowledge of cabin safety rules and regulations, a designer simply cannot propose a realistic design.

Designing private jet interiors is a high-end industry. Not only because all the materials must be of the highest quality to obtain certification, but also because clients are demanding. We expect this of course, because a jet is a very personal and big investment.

VINCENT REY: VIP aircraft interior design involves a combination of technical aviation knowledge, working with space constraints, design creativity, innovative ideas, elegance, exclusivity, refined details to reflect the personality and lifestyle of the owner and/or users and a focus on the comfort and well-being of passengers.