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M & R ASSOCIATES DESIGN

THE 'BLACK PEARL': A BBJ2'S CONTEMPORARY AND FUTURISTIC INTERIOR

Vincent Rey and Florent Magnin, founders of Geneva-based M&R Associates have designed a unique tailor-made cabin interior for a Boeing Business Jet 737-800 BBJ2. The owner commissioned the designers not only to create the cabin interior and livery of the aircraft but also to manage the project throughout the completion at the completion center in the USA, working together with the owner's representative. **BY Sylvie Péron**

“**T**he owner wanted a unique, futuristic interior,” explain the designers. “We developed a layout offering different private areas, exclusive to this type of aircraft. Circulation in the cabin allows passengers to move from one area to the next with a great fluidity of movement, without compromising their privacy.”

The forward lounge in executive class configuration offers 8 seats in addition to a Club-4 seating, dedicated to the entourage who usually travel with the client. A curvaceous corridor flanked on the side by two lavatories, one executive and the other for the exclusive use of the owner and his family, opens onto a very private open space. Next is a movie theater, then the master suite and ensuite bathroom. The aircraft is equipped with 27 certified take-off and landing seats.

The credenza and the monument hosting the television were given an ovoid shape to create an elegant and fluid style.



'Black Pearl'

The general ambiance of the cabin is defined by the owner's wishes, using his favorite color scheme of black, white and beige. Drawing their inspiration from their customer's taste for the color black, the designers set out to create decorative elements using materials reminiscent of the black pearl. Bluish oxidized metal, polished bronze, black mother-of-the pearl and wenge 'cérusé' wood with tin inlays by French specialist Metal Composite, bestow a unique look upon the monuments. Mixing matte and shiny materials such as calfskin and nubuck leather with fiber textiles confers a special style and comfort on the seats and sofas.

High-end suppliers

"We worked closely with Prella, one of the most renown French silk manufacturers."

Based in Lyon, the manufacture was established in 1752. Recently, the refurbishment of the Queen's Grand Apartment at Versailles regained its luster thanks to a major refurbishment campaign. The walls were hung with crimson silk damask patterned by an 18th Century document, which has been maintained in the Prella Archives. The manufacture is the last one still working in the ancient and traditional way, essentially for museums and wealthy individuals. "They helped us develop two types of materials, one for the movie theater, the other for the master suite. This is a one-of-a-kind, custom-made product, which allowed us to mix the exceptional quality of silk with high technology phosphorescent fibres."

Aside from the quality of the materials used for the completion of this private aircraft, the lighting system of the cabin is exceptional. M&R Associates Design developed a lining, in-

cluding accents of lights that not only give a rhythm to the cabin but also allow separating each area. Visually, the lining opens the cabin's volume, adding to the feeling of comfort and spaciousness. During night flights, lighting scenarios create different mood ambiances best suited to the passengers and owner's activities. At dinnertime, a central zenith lighting showers light onto the dining table, while in the background, coloured accents of light are slightly dimmed, creating a theatrical and intimate atmosphere.

Ovoid forms

"We wanted to create an elegant, fluid and light style for our customer," explain the designers. "Thus the credenza and the monument hosting the television were given an ovoid shape. Special seats were developed for this aircraft. In order to take as much weight

as possible off the general volume of the chairs, the armrests have been remodeled, keeping a space open between the headrest, the backseat and the lower back seat-cushion. The structure of the seats is upholstered in chrome reflecting the environment. In the playing lounge area, accents of carbon on the back of the seats reinforce the futuristic look. Carbon is also used for the tables, associated with a black stone engraved with circle figures highlighted with touches of polished tin. These geometrical figures are a visual reference to the black pearl in an utterly contemporary style.

Sculpted panels, ornate credenza in a bronze finish and specially designed lamps contribute to the overall elegance of the cabin.

The sleek lining, various lighting accents, ligh-

ted domes and side panels on different levels, all contribute to the advance style of the cabin interior of this aircraft.

A hand tufted one hundred percent wool carpet with accents of silk and fibre optics runs through the cabin, conveying a sense of luxurious harmony.

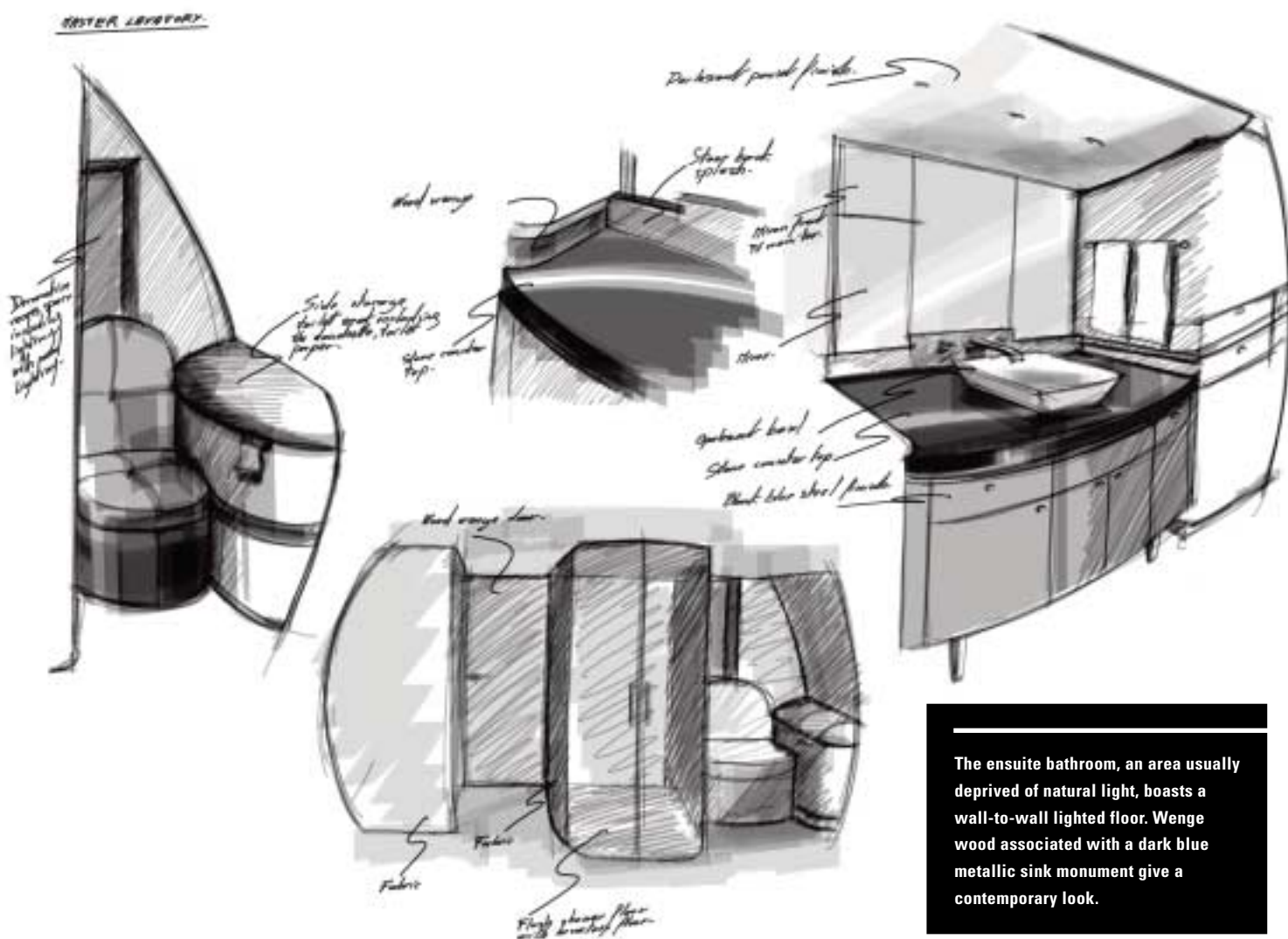
Kalogridis International of Dallas, Texas, was given the task of coordination and helping engineer the fiber optic for Black Pearl. “We worked with Lyndell Brown of Gore Design Completions (GDC)”, says CEO George Kalogridis. “We organized the fiber optic lighting system so that the mood would change in color and brightness according to the owner’s wishes. A lot of research and development (R&D) was done and a new system was developed by ourselves and GDC as this had not

been done before. Also a special fiber was used to transmit as much light as possible while keeping the fibers unseen and not felt when walked upon. All was very successful.”

Master ensuite bathroom

The ensuite bathroom is truly amazing. For this area usually deprived of natural light, the designers created a wall-to-wall lighted floor. The owner may dim or brighten the intensity of the luminosity to suit his mood. The somewhat restricted area of the lavatory is thus artificially widened, adding to the feeling of comfort.

The bright white floor associated with wenge wood and a black, almost-blue, metallic sink monument give the master bath an elegant contemporary look. The sink itself is made of



The ensuite bathroom, an area usually deprived of natural light, boasts a wall-to-wall lighted floor. Wenge wood associated with a dark blue metallic sink monument give a contemporary look.

opal stone and set on the counter top black stone from Belgium. The feet of the monument are treated in polished tin. Accents of horizontal blue oxidized metal run across the wood veneer on the side panels. The ensemble is stunning.

Executive area

This area is dedicated to the owner's entourage and staff. The latest available communication system is imbedded in a monument, facing the double Club seating on the left, in the front part of the cabin. An adjacent folding table and avant-garde styled monument offer a large working surface. Internet and electrical ports are readily accessible with great ergonomics and an eye for the tiniest detail. The Club seating area allows four people to sit down comfortably for a working conference. The monument next to the table is designed in the same uncluttered style. Fitted with a lamp, it allows the person sitting in the chair to work or read without disturbing other passengers during overnight flights. Baggage bins have been completely remodeled. Keeping the same holding capacity they are designed in a more fluid and elegant style. Special attention has been paid to the design of the seats. The armrests are finished in wenge wood inlaid with tin and the seat cushions are made in the softest calfskin.

VIP and Executive lavatories

Both of these areas are treated in a contemporary style, offering passengers a luxurious and soothing environment. The counter top and sink are made of black stone from Belgium, cut 4mm thick due to weight constraints. Wenge wood is in a satin finish and the nubuck calfskin upholstery on the bulkhead contribute to giving a soft look to both areas. Faucets were custom-designed to suit the wishes of the customer. One-of-a-kind pieces were specially manufactured for this aircraft. Dazzling chrome associated with the deep, somber tinge of mother-of-the-pearl, create a stunning, understated elegance.

Open Space

The 'family' area was designed to offer the best environment for relaxing in flight. Four comfortable chairs and a sofa sitting three are organized around 'hi-low' tables in chrome, carbon, black stone from Belgium and tin.

Chairs and sofas are upholstered in double stitched material enhanced with black mother-of-the-pearl buttons.

The large dining-room table allows six people to dine in style. The association of beige and black nubuck calfskin, chrome and a 'perlescent' special paint, reminiscent of the effect produced by light on a mother-of-the-pearl shell, enhancing the back shell of the seats, give the comfortable chairs a sophisticated and futuristic look. Hidden behind the art piece hanging from the bulkhead, a 42" plasma screen offers the possibility to watch films with the best possible sound and image quality.

Theater lounge

This multi media and home cinema lounge offers the owner the best custom-made luxury. Particular attention was paid to the TV monument. The entire surface is finished in an oxidized blue metal, offering color variations along its curves under different lighting. Black mother-of-the-pearl inserted in chrome on the opening latches is just one example of the level of detailing the designers brought to the project. Bulkheads are upholstered in black material, specially manufactured for the aircraft. When watching films, the ambiance is quiet, discreetly lit by with rays of light, while the fully reclining sofa offers the ultimate in relaxation.

Master suite

The combination of wenge wood in a satin finish with tailor-made black cotton and silk material, and the one-of-a-kind perlescent paint, give the master suite a very contemporary futuristic look. Accents of light on the side-panels offer different lighting moods. Various scenarios were developed, including sleeping, wake-up or relaxing time, with as many various lighting tints so that the owner may adapt his biorhythm to the time spent in flight. A high-low 42" plasma screen is integrated into the foot of the bed, allowing the owner to transform his master bedroom into a private film theatre. Sculpted panels in bronze finish enhance both credenzas, flanking the suite on each side.

Boeing Business Jets Communication

Great engineering and artistry were involved in this special project, a rare opportunity for

the very best of suppliers and artists to develop and express themselves.

"What was truly exceptional was not only the opportunity to design the interior for the cabin of this Boeing Business Jet2, but also to manage and follow the entire completion process at the completion center in the USA. Our customer's trust in our ability to carry out such a challenge was invaluable. We are proud to have achieved this completion within time and budget to the satisfaction of the principal," says Florent Magnin. Vincent Rey adds: "Boeing has requested to use some of the visuals of the cabin for their communication, and that is an added value to our achievement." ■



The large dining-room table allows six people to dine in style. A 'mother-of-the-pearl perlescent' paint enhances the back shell of the seats.