

CONCORDE UNIQUE



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Supersonic Cabin Initiatives - A Series by Jennifer Coutts Clay, CMILT



Photo courtesy of Chris Purcell, Right Angle Films, spiritofconcorde.com

With the promise of a return to commercial supersonic flight on the horizon, it's time to capitalise on the cabin innovations that will break through the barriers to passenger comfort, health and well-being.

As we consider the viability of supersonic flight, it's time to step inside the cabin and look for opportunities in weight savings, sustainability and passenger health. The article *Supersonic Cabins*, written by Jennifer Coutts Clay, author of *JETLINER CABINS: Evolution and Innovation*, points to clever aircraft-cabin innovations which could boost fuel-efficiency, create a better environment for passengers, and redefine the luxury of high-speed travel. Coutts Clay explores applications for hi-tech fabrics, new biodegradable materials, and developments like dimmable windows and in-flight connectivity. Also considered are some of the priorities for aviation, post COVID-19, such as anti-microbial surface treatments, as described in 2021 FLYING HEALTHY, published by CILTNA on 09 February 2021.



SUPERSONIC CABINS

The second generation of supersonic commercial flights is coming, and the cabin designs look set to build on those of the legendary Concorde, finds Jennifer Coutts Clay

Second-generation supersonic aircraft development (as reported in previous issues of *Aircraft Interiors International*) has given cabin designers unprecedented opportunities to showcase advanced materials and innovative methods, manufacturing and installation processes that were unavailable during the early days of Concorde.

Examples include regular-size, instantly dimmable windows (instead of Concorde's basic window panes measuring just 6.5in by 4.5in); ease of accessibility (Concorde's 16in aisle width posed problems for mobility-impaired passengers); LED mood lighting (instead of warm white/cool white fluorescent tubes running along the ceiling panels in Concorde's cabins); and almost limitless, multiscreen in-flight entertainment options and virtual reality headsets (instead of Concorde's purely audio-channel content).

This new generation of supersonic aircraft cabins can also benefit from advances such as cabin coatings that are resistant to dents, marks and scratches; recyclable carpets, modular floor tiles and non-textile 'hard' floor coverings; seats with microclimate features, massage facilities and lightweight seat-foams,

You can download Jennifer's e-book on Amazon, Apple iTunes and Google Play



contourable to any shape; sustainably sourced, stain-resistant seat cover fabrics that adjust automatically to balance body temperature needs; and wi-fi enablement, PED connectivity and stress-reducing noise-cancellation systems.

Further advantages include anti-microbial surface treatments and UV lights to sanitize heavy-use areas; stylish bathrooms with touchless water-supply and garbage-disposal units; upgraded galleys with induction stove tops for onboard chefs to cook fresh meals; and bio-degradable catering accessories and easily maneuverable galley trolleys.

Those flyers lucky enough to have experienced supersonic flight before will hope for cabin pressure to be maintained at Concorde's extremely comfortable level of about 5,500ft, and they will certainly welcome technological and green developments in the cabin environment.

However, there might be a revolt if airlines ventured to serve next-generation superfoods, as lauded by health gurus (e.g. fungus adaptogen compounds and fermented-seed crisps with antioxidant powders). The *crème de la crème* clientele would never want to relinquish the superlative menus and dining standards pioneered for Concorde by chefs such as Alain Ducasse, the Roux brothers and Anton Mosimann. From the passenger perspective these star chefs are the enduring guardians of the legacy of the glory days of Concorde. ✕

JENNIFER COUTTS CLAY



Jennifer Coutts Clay is the author of *Jetliner Cabins: Evolution & Innovation*, available on Amazon, Apple iTunes and Google Play. This e-book app provides details of hundreds of aircraft cabins.

As controller of corporate identity at British Airways, Jennifer was responsible for the cabin refurbishment and upgrade of the airline's supersonic fleet, as well as its subsonic fleets.

JETLINER CABINS: Evolution & Innovation

E-BOOK APP by Jennifer Coutts Clay

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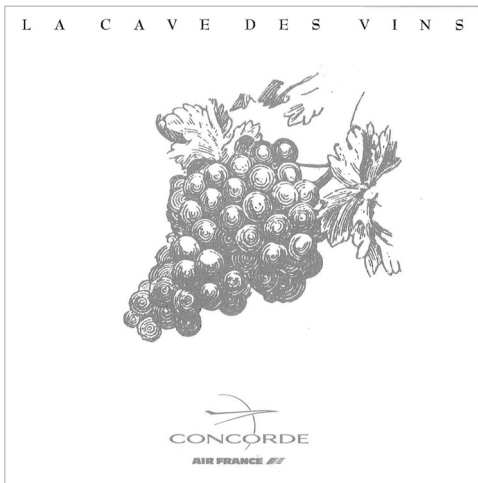
SUPERSONIC CABINS



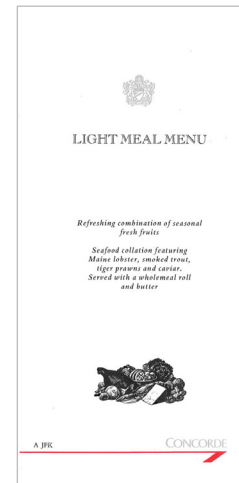
Air France Concorde
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British Airways Concorde



Air France Concorde / Wine List P 08/91 [42]
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British Airways Concorde / Light Meal Menu A JFK [2]
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Air France Concorde

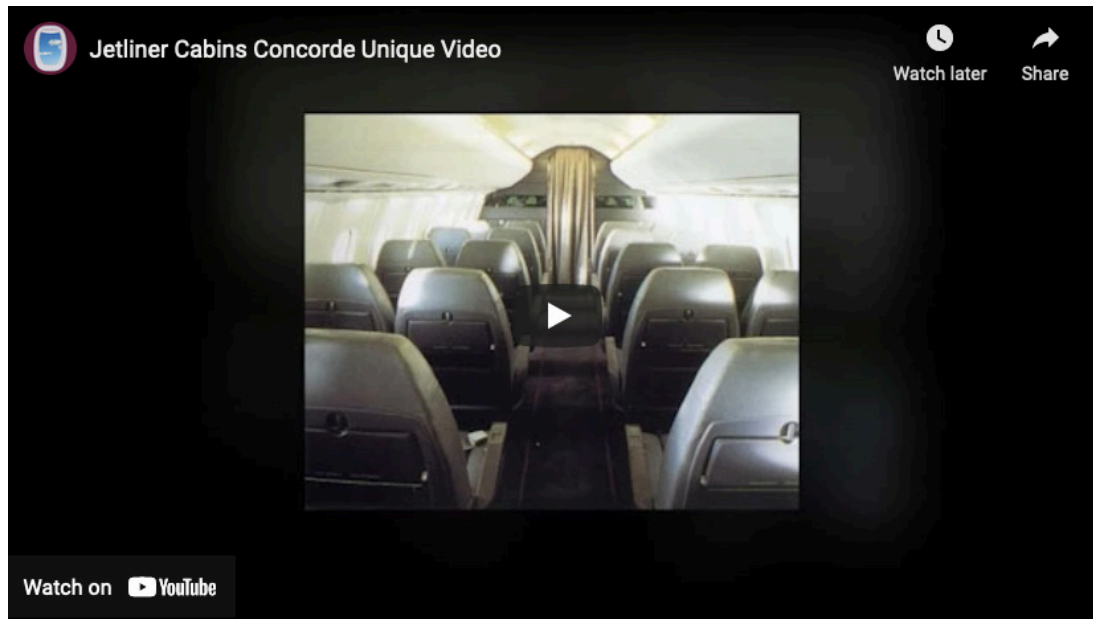


British Airways Concorde



Jennifer Coutts Clay is the author of *Jetliner Cabins: Evolution & Innovation*, still the only comprehensive guide to aircraft-cabin design, covering trends from the 1970s to the present day (www.jetlinercabins.com). At British Airways, Jennifer held senior positions including head of western USA (operations and sales), head of Scotland, and controller of corporate identity, responsible for the US\$75m program during the privatization of the airline and fleet refurbishment, including Concorde. At Pan Am, as general manager of product design & development, Jennifer led a US\$25m passenger-experience upgrade. As principal of J. Clay Consulting, Jennifer supports historical aviation research, and she is a founding member of the Crystal Cabin Awards.

Watch the Jetliner Cabins Concorde Unique Video



Jennifer Coutts Clay visits British Airways Concorde G-BOAD (the record-breaking Alpha Delta) at the INTREPID Sea, Air & Space Museum, New York City.

These images have been selected from the Concorde Picture Galleries displayed in *JETLINER CABINS: Evolution & Innovation E-BOOK App* by Jennifer Coutts Clay, available at Amazon, Apple App Store and Google play.

www.JetlinerCabins.com.