SCHNAASE INTERIOR DESIGN

THE WORLD’S QUIetest GLOBAL XRS

German-born yacht designer Birgit Schnaase has been commissioned to design the interior of a Bombardier long-range jet for an Austrian-based customer. The discriminating owner aimed for the highest level of detail and did not spare any expense. Besides great aesthetics, focus was put into making this the quietest Global XRS in the world with a sophisticated sound proofing system developed by Otto Puharz, the renowned aviation noise reduction engineer. This very unique Global XRS (s/n 9311) is marketed and offered for sale by Jetcraft Corporation. BY DRINKER PHOTO: Steve Belsito
The focus and design philosophy of our office is to translate the personality of the clients to the interior designs," says Birgit Schnaase, founder of the Hamburg-based design firm, created over fifteen years ago. In a city renowned for its high level of creativity, marine history and aeronautical expertise, Schnaase Interior Design (SID) is regarded as one of the most reputable interior design firms, with an extensive experience in the maritime field. Last January, MY Catwalk, one of SID's latest projects was exhibited at the Düsseldorf boat show. The 40-meter motoryacht was the largest yacht ever displayed inside a hall. Venturing into the new field of aeronautics, the designer was commissioned by the owner whom she knew from a previous successful yacht project, to do the interior design for is private business jet.

**Maritime heritage**

The daughter of a coppersmith, Birgit Schnaase grew up in the city of Bremerhaven, Germany. One of Europe's most important handling and logistics centers for containerized and other cargoes, with a total output of over 34 million tons of cargo annually, the city was an important naval base for the Kriegsmarine and was completely rebuilt after World War II. Above all, Bremerhaven is famed as Europe's leading vehicle handling port with over a million vehicles passing over its quays every year. It is also one of Europe's largest cold storage centers and Germany's largest center for the fish industry. Growing up in such a maritime environment, Birgit developed a keen eye for all things nautical. As a child, one of her favorite pastimes was to look at yachts in the harbor, hand in hand with her father. Eventually, the family became the proud owner of a sailing boat. Birgit earned her first pocket money at a ship upholstery facility. Long before she would become a respected interior architect, she merged an interest for maritime themes and interior design. With a degree in engineering
Recess lighting and side panels dressed in white natural linen contribute to give a sense of space.
“MAKE THE CLIENT HAPPY TRYING TO GET IN LINE WITH THE BUILDERS. TAKE CARE OF THE SLIGHTEST DETAIL”
and interior design in hand, Birgit landed a job at Lürssen, in Bremen, one of the most successful German shipyards. There she would learn all the intricacies of yacht building.

Fifteenth anniversary
On September 1, 1995 Birgit Schnaase launched her own firm as an independent interior designer. Since then, the team has been hard at work developing several custom-made sailing and motor yachts, designing the interiors of production yachts and supporting every kind of refit, conversion and refurbishment projects of various sizes. The firm has been associated with projects at the best Dutch shipyards, including Conyplex in Medemblik; Heesen in Oss; Claesen Yachtbouw in Zaanstad and No Limit in Groningen, as well as Gallart in Spain, Leight Notika and CMB in Turkey, NCP in Croatia, BSI and Malö in Sweden, and Kaiserwerft, Lürssen and Hanseyachts in Germany. Today, a team of five interior architects, all women, works in the office located in the heart of Hamburg. Professionals from the field of industrial design and 3D animation come in to lend a hand when the workload becomes too heavy. The highly experienced team is also active in designing interiors and exterior spaces for new architectural buildings. As SID celebrates 15th years in business this September, the design team has put its signature to the interior of its first aviation project, venturing successfully into the new field of aeronautical design.

In a class of its own
A June 2010 Midcoast Aviation Completed delivery, this Global XRS is exceptionally well equipped with a fully integrated Honeywell Primus 2000XP 6 Tube EFIS avionics suite and is by far the most distinctive of the fleet. The
“NOISE REDUCTION IS ATTENTION TO DETAIL RAISED TO A FINE ART”

owner aimed for the highest level of detail, sparing no expense in outfitting the cabin. “From our yachting experience, we know that the passengers on an aircraft are very close to the furniture and how important it is to provide nice materials for the users to touch,” explains Birgit. “At the same time, we were fully aware of the necessity to use materials that would stand the test of time, because the aircraft will also be used for charter.” The luxurious aircraft configured for thirteen passengers features some custom engineering options such as a mid-cabin divider bulkheads with pocket door, complete provisions for a custom lamp and sconce incorporated into the credenza, as well as the hardwood nosing trim thickness of each pull-out table, conference table, and credenza top which have been changed from the standard 0.5 inch to a 0.25 inch. This helped to vastly improve the aircraft’s overall aesthetics. “We chose precious materials like stingray leather skin inserts with plating accent for the table tops to provide a sensual experience. Divans are upholstered in silk and cotton, and lower sidewalls are covered in deep chocolate textured fabric. Macassar wood was chosen from the most precious logs, cut down in Europe,” explains Birgit. Furthermore, the Macassar veneer was applied longitudinal to the aircraft instead of the standard crosswise formation.
Detail of the table made of Macassar wood, black mother of the pearl, black stingray leather skin inserts with plating accents of “almond gold” anodised metal.
This Global XRS is exceptionally well equipped with a fully integrated Honeywell Primus 2000XP 6-Tab EFIS avionics suite.

All veneers were specifically and personally selected in Carl Booth’s shop in Louisville. A richly custom wool and silk colored geometric patterned carpet by world-renown Tai Ping, marble and granite countertops, satin almond gold hardware accents and mother-of-pearl inlays throughout provide an elegant impression. Midwest’s senior designer Donna Roselman assisted with the design. “We learned what we could achieve design-wise and what was not possible,” says Birgit. Burn tests and soundproofing proved to be a real challenge but in the end: “The result is still very close to the original ideas and design concept. This was a very encouraging teamwork. We wanted to create something special, as we had already done for the yacht of the same owner,” she adds. At SID, the development and execution of an interior design, whether yacht or private aircraft is based upon specific logical steps. It all starts with a briefing for the intended purpose and style of the project, in close cooperation with the customer. Sketching layouts, with perspective work and details in all stages of the project come next, with full Auto CAD Service supplied for layouts, elevations, sections, details and workshop drawings. Then it’s time for colored, three-dimensional visualization, whether hand-drawn or computer generated. After that comes the choice of refined material and colors, with big scale samples available from the suppliers. Refined lighting design comes next. SID provides project management for all stages of interior design along with consulting and submission for the execution of the developed ideas.

**The art of soundproofing**

The ultimate luxury on board an aircraft is (near) silence. On this specific project, the extensive custom soundproofing package was conceived with the aim to make the long-range Global the quietest aircraft in the world. Valued at almost US$1,400,000, it has been developed by renowned aviation acoustics expert Otto Pobanz. Often referred to as the ‘American sound guru’, the former 30-year chief pilot for Federated Department Stores is a noted leader in the NBAA community. His career is intertwined with the modern history of business aviation. In 2000, Otto Pobanz authored a ‘Primer’ entitled ‘Noise Control in Aircraft Cabins’, using lay terms that almost anyone can understand. “Noise, as we normally experience it, is energy propagating through the medium of air and impacting on a very sensitive follicle inside the ear that sends a signal to the brain,” he explains. Aircraft noise sources are external (engines, turbulent air flow, antennas) and internal (air distribution, hydraulics, electric motors, etc). Otto Pobanz...