

# Taking Off

Innovative ideas in all manner of sizes and shapes aiming for the skies. Herewith, a guide to what's new in the world of private aviation and the people behind the products

-----



## Superior Interiors

WARJA BORGES, CREATOR OF DISCERNING AIRCRAFT CABINS FOR THE LIKES OF BBJ TALKS ABOUT HER CRAFT TO JOHN McNAMARA

PHOTO MARTIN KREUZER

# "I wanted to create an environment where people can be focused"

**W**hen the great and the good of the aircraft world meet each May in Geneva for EBACE, expectations are always high, with all manner of jets and helicopters, new and improved, vying for attention. To stand out in this arena of aviation excellence takes something special and this was undoubtedly the case this year, with the unveiling of the Boeing Business Jets (BBJ) Demonstrator. The impressive interior design was the work of Warja Borges's Munich-based Unique Aircraft, in collaboration with the American giants and Swiss company AMAC Aerospace.

"I didn't want it to look kind of boxy," she says of the challenge of transforming "the tube" that would become the 75.8sq m cabin. "I wanted to create an open space, to have the

atmosphere of an airy, open, light interior. That was the target. It is a working tool, it is not for leisure, so I wanted to create an environment where people can concentrate, calm down, be focused and not be distracted by fancy ornamental patterns. Those were the basic ideas that I had in mind when I was creating this."

The Demonstrator does, indeed, have a spacious, distinguished air about it, with elegant furnishings and a refined blue and beige colour scheme, and while the emphasis is on the working environment, the rest and relaxation areas do not lack for warmth or home comforts.

All this is the culmination of a project that began with a first customer meeting in 2015 and grew from original handmade sketches to computer

models to the finished article on display in Geneva. It is a major accomplishment for Unique Aircraft, which Borges set up in 2010, having spent ten years at fellow Munich-based aircraft design firm Reiner Heim. More than just a business, though, it helps her fulfil her dreams. "It is international, but the aviation business is also kind of a family," she says. "I am flying to places I would never expected to go. I love to travel, learn about cultures, history, traditions; I love to create things and work with colours and materials, that is my passion."

That passion informs her work and is clearly appreciated by her clients. She is already working on another project with BBJ – a BBJ 777-300ER VIP interior. Something, perhaps, to look forward to at an EBACE of the future. [boeing.com/bbj](http://boeing.com/bbj); [unique-aircraft.com](http://unique-aircraft.com)



The swish dining area of the BBJ Demonstrator as designed by Borges