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virgin atlantic clubhouse jfk airport

Paul Gregory's Focus Lighting has created a dynamic environment for the lucky Virgin Atlantic Airlines Business Class contingent...



Virgin Atlantic Airlines has unveiled a 7,000 square foot first-class oasis for weary travellers, known as the Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse at JFK Airport in New York City. For those in need of an escape from the hustle and bustle, the lounge is located in the main hub of Terminal 4 and over-

looks the airfield. ShOP Architects conceived the lounge's design with the lighting design done in collaboration with Focus Lighting of New York City. "We strive to support the architecture with sensitive, well thought out lighting that is tailored to each project. In this

case, we wanted to create an environment where the patrons could relax and bask in the slowly changing sunset colours that illuminate the feature walls," states Paul Gregory, principal designer at Focus Lighting. First class passengers awaiting their flights are greeted at the entrance by a cascading LED

illuminated waterfall, which slowly changes colour. The waterfall can be viewed immediately upon entering the lounge as it flows down, acting as a natural fibre optic and glowing soft, relaxing blues and purples. The water flows into a trough below, and follows an L shape around the perimeter of the

⊗ lounge, serving as a partition and separating the area from the rest of the terminal.

The main lighting features in the lounge are the custom designed partition walls that separate the dining area into cosy enclaves. The walls were designed by ShOP Architects and are made from custom cut pieces of MDF, which are then assembled in a jigsaw-puzzle-like fashion. This makes it possible to view the runway from inside the terminal while still creating an intimate space for the lounge.

Transparency and openness are merged with privacy and enclosure.

"Track fixtures are mounted at the base of each partition, making them appear as if they are glowing internally. The hidden source allows the patrons to feel as if they are sitting in the middle of a beautiful painting that is slowly changing right before their eyes," states Gregory.

The lights follow a cycle of varying shades of ambers, magentas, reds, and lavenders, which change at an imperceptible, gradual speed. The surfaces and planes of the partition slats are painted white, in order to further enhance the vivid colours of the lighting.

Decorative crystal chandelier fixtures hang in the centre of each enclave. This modern day chandelier is surrounded by a cylindrical shaped shade made from one-way mirror. This allows patrons to see through the shade to the lighting fixture, but also bounces the light around on the inside. Corridor accent lighting softly illuminates the walls leading to the restrooms.

"Whether the project is large and attention grabbing, like the George Washington Bridge in New York or a lavish lounge like the Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse at JFK Airport, lighting has become, more than ever, an important part of design in helping people interact with a space and enhancing their enjoyment," says Gregory. ⊗



technical information

Architects: ShOP Architects
Lighting Design: Focus Lighting
Lighting specified: Color Kinetics, Lightolier, CSL, Legion, RSA, Lucifer

Colour changing LEDs from Color Kinetics are a key part of this lighting design scheme, relaxing patrons who use the first class lounge