

FLYINGGROUP IN A NEW JACKET



The construction of the new offices of private and business aviation company FLYINGGROUP was completed at the end of last year. We have already introduced you to the new concept, but now we can take you inside the beautiful open interiors decorated with rich fabrics, warm colours and a cosy, welcoming atmosphere to which several renowned Belgian designers and companies contributed.

In a previous issue of Imagicasa, we introduced you to the design for the new headquarters of private and business aviation company FLYINGGROUP in Antwerp. We told you more about the plans of the agency A2D, 'architecture 2 design', which would design the new building. Since 1995, FLYINGGROUP – founded by Bernard Van Milders – has been the reference in the Benelux and France when it comes to private and business aviation. As comfort and luxury are central to their services and equipment, this also had to be reflected in the new building, both inside and

out. For a further description and information about the collaboration with the architectural firm **A2D** and how they achieved this, we would like to refer you to the article in our Autumn 2019 edition. In this Belgian March edition, we will actually focus on the decoration of the beautiful interior and the collaborations **FLYINGGROUP** entered into for this. Instead of renders and plans, we can now show you real pictures of the beautiful final result. The opening of the new offices in September 2020 was also accompanied by the introduction of a new logo and thus a complete revamp of the brand's identity. 'We look at what lies ahead in relation to what lies behind us,' we hear. 'We continue to invest in our core strengths, based on a deep understanding of our customer. It starts with thoughtful leadership, a shared awareness of the core purpose and brand fundamentals.'

'THIS REMARKABLE ZERO ENERGY BUILDING IS BELGIAN DESIGN AT ITS BEST'

Everything they do is based on their simple motto: 'Every journey should be a joyful experience'. This philosophy not only determines the services and offerings on and in the aircraft and during flights, but is also carried through into the interiors of the main offices. Here, every visitor, customer and employee should feel comfortable and have a joyful experience, combined with the necessary luxury. This will not be a problem in the various new areas of the headquarters comprising offices, meeting rooms, passenger and crew lounge, an aircraft hangar and a meeting and event hall that includes a bar and art gallery. Their key values and attributes, vibrant, reliable and respectful, are nicely summed up in their slogan: **'FLYINGGROUP - Destined to delight'**.

'Our ultra-modern headquarters captures all this in the most beautiful and stylish setting. This remarkable zero energy building is Belgian design at its best,' they say.

The emphasis here is definitely on zero energy building. One of the most important trends in the aviation industry in recent years has been to strive for the smallest possible carbon footprint and thus limit climate change. The new building is therefore completely energy-neutral, given that sustainability is an important issue for **FLYINGGROUP**.

EVOLUTION 21
FLYINGGROUP worked with Evolution 21 for the interior design of various areas including lounges, the entrance area, the reception area, the pilot guest lounges, etc. This family business from Belgium has already

appeared several times in our magazine and on our online platform. We spoke with founder Karine Bonjean about their achievements in this impressive project. Evolution 21, together with **FLYINGGROUP** and Stefan De Lausnay, architect at **A2D**, created the overall atmosphere of the new building. This went from determining colour combinations to the choice of furniture, which was made to measure. 'Bernard Van Milders came to us for advice on beautiful furniture. People had to be able to stay in a cosy environment, feel at home and be able to wait in a pleasant way,'

says Karine Bonjean. 'That's why we worked with cosy, beautiful fabrics, warm materials and carpets' The interior was dressed in shades of grey, beige and green, creating a soft and warm atmosphere. 'The green is not only a very beautiful colour. It also provides a calm and serene environment to unwind and a classic, yet stylish atmosphere.' The colour palette obviously also had to fit in with the rest of the building. The overall picture had to be right and should not be too dramatic. Thanks to the openness of the building, the aircraft hangar and planes

are visible from different rooms and spaces flow into each other. 'So everything had to fit together,' says Bonjean. 'The offices are soberly decorated in brown and sandy colours, in true natural tones. In the lounges and pilot and reception areas, we also used beautiful materials such as velvet, cotton and chenille. Soft fabrics, comfortable seats and beautiful linen curtains that provide air and light.'

Pilots and visitors alike can wait for their next flight in peace and quiet in the various

lounges and seating areas. Evolution 21 also provided comfortable chairs and some nice tables where they can have lunch or a cup of coffee for example. For the material and colour palette, account was also taken of the extensive art collection of Van Milders, says Bonjean. Everything was thought of. For example, in the rooms on the side of the runway – where you regularly come in wet when it rains – she also used some outdoor fabrics that can withstand water – from the new Evolution 21 collection – and that are still velvety soft.







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Although the openness of the building and the flowing spaces presented quite a challenge, they succeeded in bringing it to a beautiful conclusion. 'We had to take into account several things, including the façade, light, different rooms... Everything had to match. It is also a public space that requires quality materials and had to radiate a warm atmosphere with a touch of nature.' The result is everything we expected and more! In the words of Karine Bonjean: 'It has become a wonderfully harmonious and welcoming space. When you step inside, you immediately feel happy and calm.' It should therefore come as no surprise that she has already received a great deal of praise from both pilots and visitors.

NESTOR & ROTSEN

Nestor & Rotsen is also a well-known name in the Imagicasa network and in our magazines that collaborated on this project. The design studio of brothers Devi and Denneb Vervaeke has a very distinctive style with which they create unique furniture. For the reception desk of the new headquarters, they designed and chose their 'Neststone' table together with Evolution 21. The design looks robust but elegant and follows a

fluid movement. The natural material and organic shape fits in nicely with the palette Evolution 21 used. 'A design was created where the object looks very imposing and at the same time has a very natural, airy look,' they tell us. The natural material used was developed in their own studio. 'Just like our 'Franklin Tables', this handmade functional sculpture is one of our trademarks. Thus the desk is also shaped into one seamless impressive object. The long flared work surface is extremely voluminous, literally very heavy and extends for a long time without support, yet the object seems to stand almost in perfect balance and harmony.' This 'counter' has a very ingenious design. It is built with an invisible supporting structure and was preceded by thorough stability studies. 'The inside is therefore as complex as the inside of a Rolex watch. A work of art in itself,' they say. Nestor & Rotsen also lets us know that

they are very proud to be in the good company of the inspiring conceptual art of Panamarenko and Jaak De Coninck. 🌟

(Text: Caroline Meeusen)



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