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ELITE TRAVELER

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The Style Issue

Outerwear, watches, interiors,
and jewelry — plus the rise
of the Betweeners, and
how to buy a vineyard

AVIATION

The height of fashion

We live in the golden age of collaboration. No one is staying in their lane, often with thrilling results. The latest head-turning pairing: Bombardier and Elie Saab. “Ours is a mutual customer,” says Elie Saab Jr, CEO of the Elie Saab Group, at the unveiling of Bombardier’s flagship Aviator Lounge in Monaco.

Elie Saab first ventured into the interiors world in 2019 and recently debuted a collection of branded residences. “We want to deliver an experience [to our customers] everywhere they go,” says Saab Jr.

Having grown up flying on Bombardier aircraft, he had long envisioned creating a jet of his own. The collaboration felt personal, rooted in some of his fondest childhood memories of traveling. While high-profile designers are often tapped by aircraft owners to bring style to the skies in one-off jobs, this is the first time an aircraft manufacturer has offered an interior of this pedigree and caliber as an option — in this case for the extra-large cabins of Bombardier’s Global 8000, first launched in December 2025.

Reaching top speeds of Mach 0.95, the Global 8000 is already billed as the fastest civil aircraft since the Concorde (it recently clocked just over six hours from its HQ in Montreal to Nice, France); but, if the reality lives up to the renderings, this best-in-class ultra-long-range aircraft may also take the title of chicest, with a sweeping, sand-hued palette, deeply plush tactile fabrics on Bombardier’s signature Nuage (French for ‘cloud’) seats,

and unexpected additions (a five-seat divan sofa, his-and-hers walk-in closets, and a dramatic Patagonia stone bathroom).

“It comes together like a small cocoon,” says Saab Jr, “like a small universe, where you can feel at peace and where you have that sense of elegance.” It also feels unmistakably residential, with a stateroom that flows into the closet, and finally into the show-stopping bathroom with a sculptural capsule shower accented in espresso-colored wood and mosaic-like stonework. “We wanted to deliver a configuration that could be an eye-opener for some people who maybe already own a business jet.”

Throughout, a few discreet, almost invisible logos add a whisper of if-you-know-you-know luxury, while a specially developed geometric bird pattern repeating across the bulkhead marquetry, carpets, and cushions serves as a nod to Bombardier’s technical achievements. “The biggest differentiator between a Bombardier plane and any other is the wing,” says Bombardier’s president and CEO Éric Martel of its Smooth Flêx Wing. With leading-edge slats and a flexible design to absorb turbulence, the wing tech is claimed to help Bombardier jets access around 30 percent more airports than rival aircraft. The company also claims that this delivers the smoothest ride in the skies, with less cabin vibration. “We’ve always pushed to have the best wing because it brings performance and comfort,” says Martel, “and that’s the idea of the abstract bird logo.”

With two different configurations (three or four zones), the Elie Saab interior is now available as an option on all new Global 8000 aircraft, as well as on Global 7500s being upgraded. *Nicole Trilivas*

Computer-generated mockups show the new Elie Saab x Bombardier jet interiors

