

robinson+robinson design

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ADVANCES IN GRAPHICS TECHNOLOGY IMPROVE COMPLETION PROCESS

The Chicago-based industrial design firm Robinson+Robinson Design have found that as technology progresses, computer renderings provide an increasingly important part of their workflow. "Although they were impressive at the time, looking back at the kinds of images our industry was using even a few years ago, they now seem flat," says Jay Robinson.

"Lighting and materials were unconvincing. It's all a function of affordable processing power and improved shaders. We can provide highly detailed computer renderings produced in 3DS Max," The Autodesk software, also used in cinema and game animation, allows for extremely realistic lighting critical to creating convincing images. "These renderings can give our customers confidence in the final appearance of the aircraft interior, and are invaluable in communicating the customer's expectations to the completion center."

The firm has also been developing a type of aircraft walkthrough based on the animation of still images. "Traditionally, a fully animated 3D walkthrough has been a very time-consuming project," says Kendra Robinson. "Either the quality of the images suffers, or the cost and schedule are driven up." Instead, they can use higher-resolution still images to produce a dynamic presentation in less time. An example can be seen on their website, www.robinson-design.com.

The husband-and-wife firm of Robinson+Robinson Design have been designing aircraft interiors since 1996. Kendra Robinson supervised the Design Group for Bombardier in Tucson before starting her own consultancy in 2001. Jay Robinson joined her in 2005 after supervising Technical Design for Bombardier. Now based in Chicago, the two continue to design interiors for a variety of narrow- and wide-body aircraft.

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