# AIRLINE

## Norman Foster, 1998

**AIRLINE**

Acclaimed for his designs of major international airports, Norman Foster is also an expert on the outfitting of airport interiors. The AIRLINE seating system for waiting areas was developed by Foster in collaboration with Vitra. The basic idea: a sturdy frame consisting of an aluminium beam supported by die-cast aluminium legs, upon which seat units, armrests and table elements are mounted. AIRLINE allows an economical and flexible use of space. The system is extremely robust and easy to clean. Assembly is simple – requiring just a single wrench – which also makes it easy to reconfigure as needed. The design is restrained and sleek, pairing the superior durability of its construction with stylistic longevity.

**Materials**

- **Seat and backrest elements available in four versions:** moulded maple plywood (clear lacquer finish); perforated steel; steel with padding (black vinyl cover); polyurethane integral foam (robust seat shell with upholstered effect, self-supporting structure on steel frame).
- **Armrests:** die-cast aluminium, silver-tone coating.
- **Table units:** black solid core material.
- **Base:** triangular aluminium profile as the load-bearing element, anodised in silver-grey; die-cast aluminium legs, silver-tone coating; plastic glides for carpet or anti-skid glides for hard floors.
- **Optional:** side table with top made of black solid core material.

**Norman Foster**

As a renowned architect of major international airports, Norman Foster is also an expert on airport interior design. The AIRLINE seating system for waiting areas was developed by Foster in collaboration with Vitra.

AIRLINE 3-seater bench with PU seats, with armrests and two small tables on the outside.

AIRLINE 5-seater bench with PU seats.

AIRLINE 4-seater bench with PU seats, with armrests on the outside and in the centre.

AIRLINE 2-seater bench with PU seats in kissing position, with armrests on the outside and a large table in the centre.

AIRLINE 4-seater bench with PU seats in back-to-back configuration, with armrests.

AIRLINE 6-seater bench with PU seats, with armrests and an additional leg in the centre.

Seat and backrest in moulded maple plywood.

The ergonomic forms of moulded plywood combine an elegant appearance with easy care.

Seat in PU, backrest in moulded maple plywood.

Seat made of self-supporting PU foam for extraordinary comfort, backrest made of premium moulded plywood.

Seat and backrest in PU.

Self-supporting PU foam is extremely comfortable because the flexible material adapts to the human body. Robust and easy to maintain.

Seat and backrest in perforated sheet steel.

Perforated sheet steel combines sturdiness and simple maintenance with a sleek visual effect.

Seat in upholstered sheet steel, backrest in perforated sheet steel.

Seat in sheet steel with vinyl upholstery for enhanced comfort, backrest in perforated sheet steel for durability and easy maintenance.

Seat and backrest in upholstered sheet steel.

Steel with vinyl upholstery for enhanced comfort in combination with a robust structure.

### Versatility and longevity

The AIRLINE seating system has proven itself over many years of use in countless waiting areas and airport terminals around the globe – including mega-hubs like London Heathrow.
The modular system has a logical structure that offers many different configuration options. In combination with the wide variety of available materials, AIRLINE can satisfy virtually every customer need.
The robust construction of AIRLINE is conceived for practical service and easy maintenance. The system's understated design also contributes to its extraordinary longevity.

### Comfort

The seat units of AIRLINE consist of two elements: seat surface and backrest. Both have an ergonomic shape for optimal support. Thanks to a wide selection of material options, each customer can precisely specify the desired level of comfort. The PU version, which has a self-supporting seat and backrest construction, is especially adaptable to the human body for extra comfort. Additional advantages of PU seats are durability and easy cleaning.

### Simple assembly and maintenance

An outstanding feature of AIRLINE is its ingeniously simple construction, which makes it easy to assemble and maintain. Just a few screws and a single wrench are required to attach the modular elements – including seats, backrests, armrests and table units – to the aluminium beam, and their removal is equally simple.

### Ease of cleaning

AIRLINE is optionally available with a gap between the seat and back panels. This reduces the effort to clean the seats to a minimum.
Dirt and crumbs are easily brushed towards the back and fall through the gap onto the floor, where they are picked up with floor cleaning equipment.
With its clear geometric contours and the few points of contact with the floor, AIRLINE also simplifies the cleaning of floor surfaces.

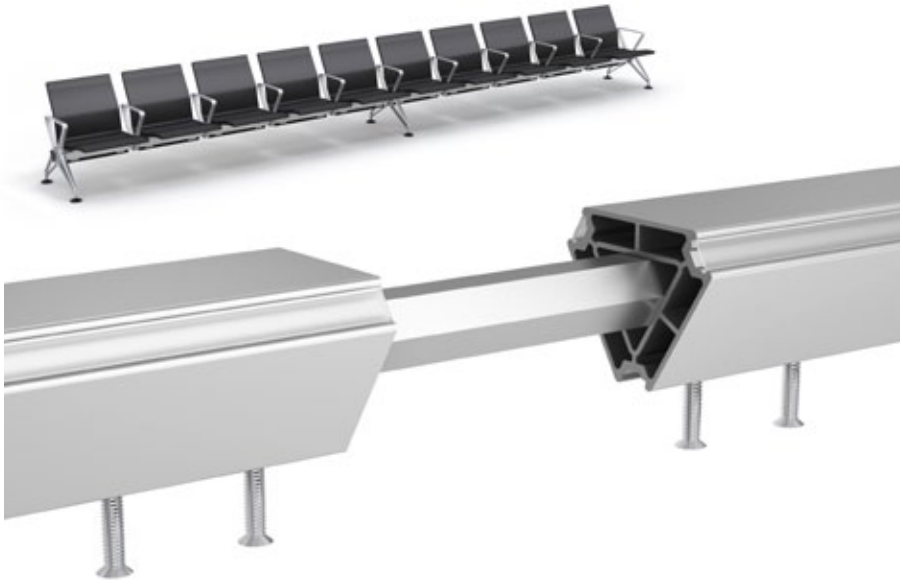
### Seat labels

For AIRLINE backs in PU, a special version is available with a plaque insert, which makes it possible to create designated seating categories. Individual benches can thus be easily reserved for family passengers or persons with reduced mobility.
The versatile plaques can also accommodate other types of information such as advertising or numbering.


### Seat height adjustment

By simply adding an optional distance element, a higher seat height version can be created for AIRLNE. The height can be raised from the standard level of 43 up to 49 cm. This is especially useful in combination with the optional seat labels to assist passengers with reduced mobility or elderly customers who have difficulty sitting down and standing up.


1 Crossbeam
2 End cap
3 Leg
4 Double row connector
5 Seat unit
6 Armrest
7 Table 500 x 500 mm
8 Table 300 x 500 mm
9 Recliner



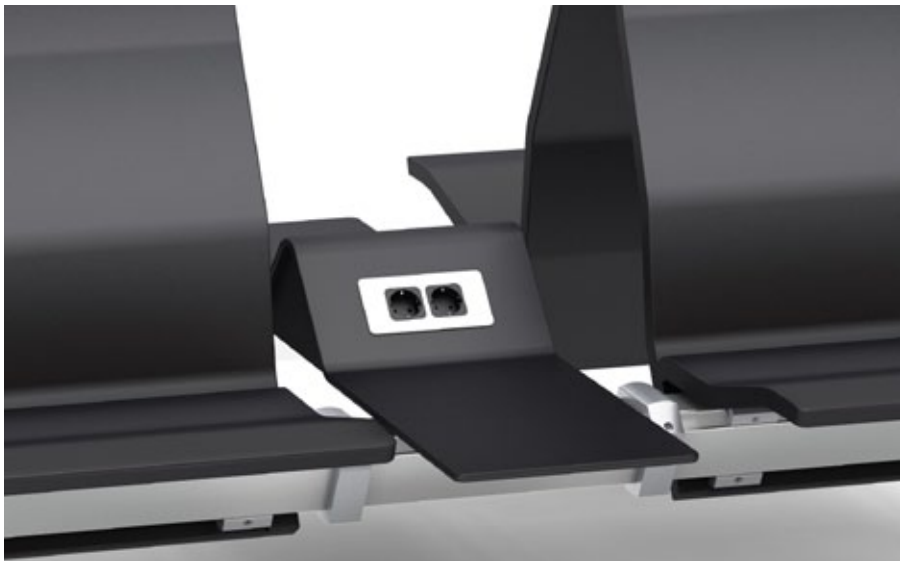
**Connection of two beams**
Using a connecting element and two screws, AIRLINE beams can be further extended for specific contract projects. Benches can be expanded to any desired length.

### Armrest module

The electrification units are mounted between the seats on brackets. They can also be installed with an open armrest so that both needs are met. These options present an optimal solution for single row configurations requiring maximum usage of space, as no tables are needed for the installation of power connections. The outlets are clearly visible and easily accessible and do not impact cleaning operations. This module can also be retrofitted.

### Column element

The electrification columns can be added to both small and large table units. They are especially suited to single row configurations for which tables are already planned.
With integrated sockets and/or USB ports, each column provides power for a maximum of two passengers. The elements are clearly visible, easy to use and do not impact cleaning or maintenance work.



### Connecting table with electrification

For the electrification of double row configurations, AIRLINE also offers the option of a specially moulded connecting table with electrification.
The moulded tabletop in high-pressure laminate (solid core material) can be fitted with outlets and/or USB ports to supply power to a maximum of four passengers. The electrification unit has a high degree of visibility and is easy to use. The rounded top edge of the table prevents people from placing beverages above the outlets, which reduces the risk of a short circuit.

Length 1250 mm / 49″

Length 1250 mm / 49″

Length 1250 mm / 49″

Length 1840 mm / 72″

Length 1840 mm / 72″

Length 1840 mm / 72″

Length 2430 mm / 95¼″

Length 2430 mm / 95¼″

Length 2430 mm / 95¼″

Length 3020 mm / 118½″

Length 3020 mm / 118½″

Length 3020 mm / 118½″

Length 3610 mm / 141½″

Length 3610 mm / 141½″

Length 3610 mm / 141½″

Length 1250 mm / 49″

Length 1535 mm / 60¼″

Length 1820 mm / 71¼″

Length 1840 mm / 72¼″

Length 2125 mm / 83¼″

Length 2410 mm / 94½″

Length 2430 mm / 95¼″

Length 2715 mm / 106½″

Length 3000 mm / 117½″

Length 3020 mm / 118½″

Length 3305 mm / 129½″

Length 3590 mm / 140¾″

Length 3610 mm / 141½″

Length 3895 mm / 152¾″

Length 4180 mm / 163¾″

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# BIFMA

AIRLINE fulfils the highest standards of safety and fire protection in public spaces.

The flammability of Vitra products is rigorously assessed by independent testing institutes, which utilise internationally recognised test methods and standards. The standard versions of AIRLINE conform to the most widely established European fire protection specifications:

**DIN EN 1021 - Part 1 and 2**

European standard for assessing the ignitability of upholstered furniture.

**BS 7176 - Medium Hazard**

British standard for assessing the ignitability of upholstered furniture, classified for use in public areas and public buildings.

Along with these two important standards, AIRLINE also fulfils various regional fire protection requirements. In addition, Vitra offers the option of specialised testing of the AIRLINE seating system for specific contract projects.

Vitra views the environmental consequences of a consumer product and its manufacturing process as a design issue. The environmental connection is a part of the product and its use; it is a part of the design.

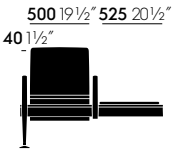
Design does not mean styling. Rather, it is a method employed to solve complex problems. Whether pieces of furniture prove their worth in daily life often becomes clear only after they have been used for a while. They should not only be functional but also long-lasting – both in terms of quality and aesthetics.

Quality encompasses the products' durability and the capacity to replace individual parts. Refraining from the use of fashionable styles means that rapidly changing aesthetic trends are avoided.

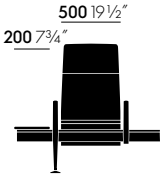
Designing a classic is not something one can set out to do – that is why classic pieces are such rare occurrences. However, they serve as wonderful examples for Vitra in the design of new products.

Unlike the development of a classic piece, it is indeed possible to effectively plan for functional longevity. Vitra has set up a test centre for this very purpose – not merely to satisfy European and international standards but also to conduct Vitra's own set of more rigorous tests.

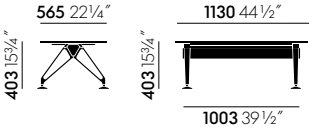
The aesthetic and functional durability of its products, which results from this development process, is Vitra's most important contribution to sustainability.



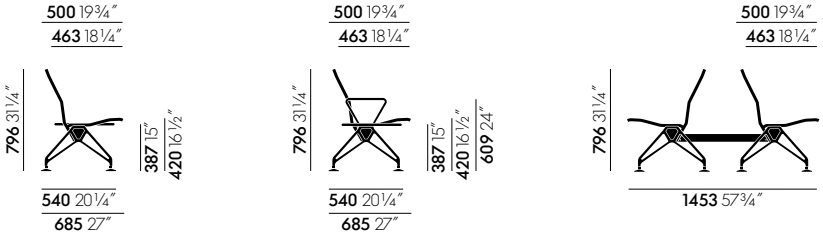

AIRLINE seat unit, armrests, large table element



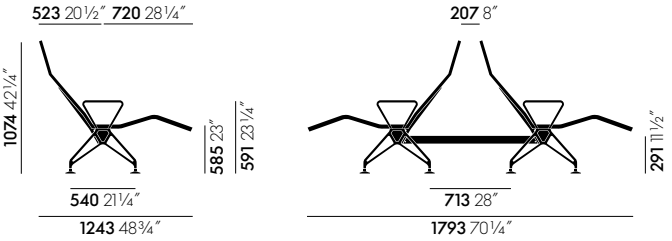

AIRLINE recliner, armrests, small table element



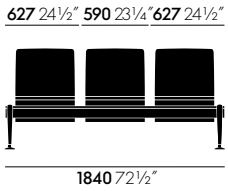

AIRLINE side table



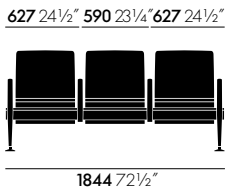

AIRLINE seat unit, seat unit with armrests, double bench



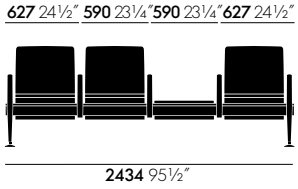

AIRLINE recliner, double bench with recliners



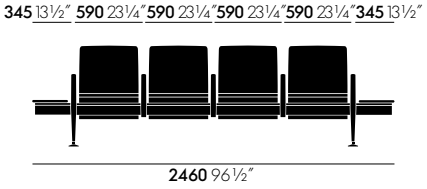

Dimensions between centre lines *
Seat units without armrests




Dimensions between centre lines *
Seat units with armrests




Dimensions between centre lines *
Seat units with armrests and table element




Dimensions between centre lines *
Seat units with armrests and small table elements

* For specific contract projects, the dimensions between centre lines can be reduced upon request.

## SURFACES AND COLOURS

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**05**
light silver
powder-coated
(smooth)

Backrest/seat,
Perforated sheet steel

**54**
maple

Backrest/seat,
Wood veneer

**66**
nero

Backrest/seat,
Vinyl *

**01**
basic dark

Backrest/seat,
Polyurethane integral
foam *

**05**
light silver
powder-coated
(smooth)

Armrests/base,
aluminium

black (smooth)

Table element,
HPL

* Additional colors are
available in projects

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