

# ICONIC SEATING

A FLEXIBLE RANGE OF SEAT OFFERINGS ENABLES DESIGNERS TO CATER TO THE DEMANDING REQUIREMENTS OF AN AIRPORT AND ITS PASSENGERS



MAIN IMAGE: The Flite compact seating system can increase seating capacity in gate rooms by 15%

ABOVE: The power arm for the Flite system is designed for easy maintenance and features interchangeable modules

Since 1965 OMK has provided design-led solutions to the furniture industry. Working with the world's leading architects, operators and specifiers, the company has supplied over 300 transport terminals. Its in-house design team has developed a range of products designed to offer a variety of seating systems to suit all operational areas in the airport environment.

The range consists of three systems to satisfy different requirements. This approach makes it quick and easy for clients to select the correct product – a refreshing change in today's market.

Trax has been in production for over 25 years and boasts a multitude of options, and is OMK's most versatile product and suitable for retail areas, gate rooms and external spaces. Flite has been primarily designed for gate rooms as it is a compact seating system that offers increased seating capacity. The iconic Seville bench is perfect for ancillary areas, such as baggage handling and smoking shelters.

## High density seating

To celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year, OMK launched an innovative seating system – Flite. OMK identified

a need to increase seating capacity in gate rooms to accommodate the new breed of passenger aircraft, such as the A380. Flite has a compact footprint, providing a significant 10% increase in seating density over other products on the market.

Being designed primarily for high-traffic areas meant that – as well as having to be compact – the need for easy maintenance was paramount. Flite is the first seat on the market to use an identical interchangeable seat and back panel, available in molded polyurethane or saddle stitched coach hide, or upholstered in a range of fabrics. All materials are mounted on a single pressure die-cast aluminum bracket, minimizing the number of spare parts to be stocked.

Reducing the number of components in the seating system has eliminated the need for pre-assembly. The move has also halved the amount of time that is required for on-site assembly. This reduction in assembly time not only produces a further cost saving, but results in less disruption to a live and busy airport.

Hook locking systems are used to locate components, meaning that less fixings are

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required and enabling assembly to be carried out by a single operative

While Flite offers high density seating, airports that are looking for flexibility and a wide range of options will focus on Trax. Originally designed in 1989, the award-winning seating system has undergone significant design changes and is now available in four chassis options. When combined with the extensive range of material finishes and accessories, over 77,000 combinations can be created. All components can be retrofitted, allowing customers to upgrade their seats without the full cost of replacement. This was demonstrated by Hamburg Airport, which recently upgraded its upholstered seats to molded polyurethane simply by changing the panels.

Airports are not limited to changing the materials and accessories; chassis upgrades including a high back and leg rest can also be retrofitted to add comfort. Specialist features including PRM solutions and power delivery are also available, the latter having been a key consideration when developing Flite.

After successfully retrofitting power and intelligent USB charging into Trax, OMK's design team ensured that Flite was designed from the ground up to expand power. The resulting power arm uses off-the-shelf replaceable modules, making it future-proof. The custom profile of the extruded beam was optimized to be used as a conduit for the bespoke wiring loom, which has connections at each arm that makes removal simple.

### Short stay seating

Originally commissioned to complement Nicholas Grimshaw's futuristic design for the British

Pavilion at the Seville Expo in 1992, the Seville bench system has gone on to win numerous design awards, such as millennium product status from the UK's Design Council.

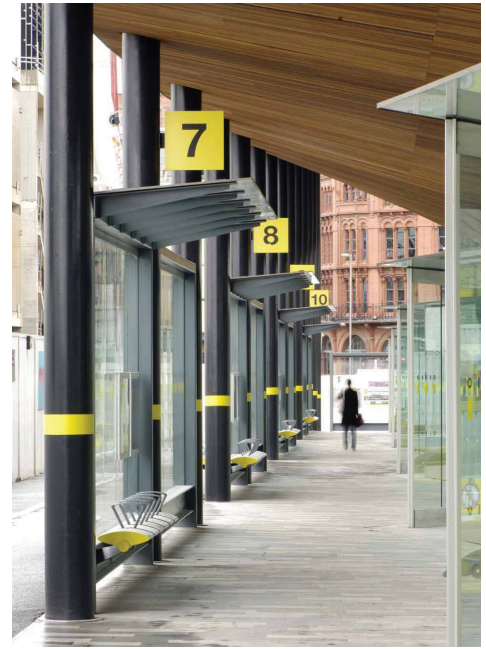
The bench is bidirectional and therefore ideal for use in baggage reclaim and rail platforms. Made entirely from aluminum, it can be placed in external areas such as smoking shelters. There are three standard supports, allowing the bench to be floor fixed, wall mounted or free standing. All are available with or without armrests. Custom mounting options can be designed to fit with any railing or cladding system.

### Seating evolution

As a design-led company, OMK is continually looking to identify future requirements for seating. Providing the right type of seating for each area of the airport is key to satisfying the needs of every passenger. In a departure from beam seating, the company is currently working on a concept for a modular soft seating system, designed from the ground up to offer dynamic layouts with high levels of comfort while retaining the strength and durability for which its products have become known.

Spatial planning and passenger flow analysis are additional services offered by OMK. To cater for multiple passenger profiles, products across the range can be combined to create a multiuse area. This approach can be applied to gate rooms as well as retail areas.

As OMK expands its range, its client list continues to grow. In 2017, its seating has been installed into a further three airports in Egypt. There have also been seating systems installed in multiple other locations such as Bahrain, Dublin and Dubai airports. ■



Reducing the **number of components** in the seating system has **eliminated** the need for pre-assembly



ABOVE: The Seville bench is often used in ancillary areas  
LEFT: The Trax High Back is saddle stitched in coach hide leather