

Plane Luxury

COULD THIS BE THE WORLD'S MOST alluring airport hotel? Aesthetically, it's got the requisite wow factor, thanks to its sensuous chocolate-colored, polished-plaster foyer with a subtly lit, fiberglass staircase sweeping up into a spiral. And its location at Farnborough Airport in Hampshire, England—fast becoming the main European hub for private aviation—adds undeniable cachet. The hotel's opening in August was smartly timed too, pre-empting the centenary of the first officially recorded powered flight in Britain, made by Samuel Franklin Cody at Farnborough in October 1908.



Level view The lobby from the curved staircase of the aircraft-themed Aviator hotel

The latest project from Ken McCulloch, creator of the Malmaison hotel chain, and interior designer Amanda Rosa in collaboration with Farnborough's owners TAG Aviation, Aviator (www.aviatorfarnborough.co.uk) is a spectacular contemporary building. Incorporating dramatic curves of aluminum, its design was inspired by the shape of an airplane propeller, with 169 guestrooms along its sinuous, elongated twin wings.

The rooms are large and their look deliberately aerodynamic: soft flowing lines with an Art Deco influence; contoured chrome aviator accessories; tripod lamps; Bose sound systems and leather window seats. The bathrooms, with their black glass and taupe walls, all have flat-screen TVs and extra-deep bathtubs.