

APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT WITH GE PLASTICS:
REDESIGN OF INTERIORS OF AC CHAIR CAR FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS

Industrial Design Project 2 IDC IIT-BOMBAY Mumbai - 400 076

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INTRODUCTION

The project aims at enhancing the comfort level of the passengers traveling by Second Class AC Chair Car coach.

Budget Airlines offer very affordable rates, providing stiff competition to the Indian Railways in this concern.

CONCERNS OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS (IR):

- Increasing the capacity of the coaches -
- Using the existing skeletal frame of the coach produced by either the RCF (Kapurtala) or ICF (Perambur)
 - Adhering to the safety standards employed by the IR
- Creating fire-resistant, wear-resistant design that is vandalism proof





INTRODUCTION

PROJECT BRIEF

Designing the interiors of the AC Chair Car coach for the Indian Railways, focusing on user amenities around the seat.

DESIGN OBJECTIVES

- Responding to the Indian user's needs for different user amenities
- Addressing the **lighting and ventilation** solution within the coach
- Developing ideal **luggage storage solutions** for every passenger



ACTIVE PEOPLE WATCHING

For the User Study, we observed and recorded behavioral responses within the given context, without interfering with the user's activities

USERS STUDIED

Jyoti Prakash 35 M Software consultant

Sanket Shelve 23 M MBA student

Arun Shinde 30 M Sales personnel

ROUTES STUDIED

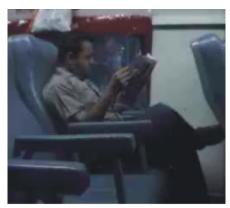
- Mumbai- Pune Intercity Express,
- Mumbai Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express,
- Mumbai- Margaon Jan Shatabdi Express and
- Chennai Bangalore Shatabdi Express



Jyoti Prakash



Sanket Shelve



Arun Shinde

The following observations were recorded as part of the user study:

STRATA OF SOCIETY:

High income professionals (management personnel, businessmen, doctors)

Upper class individuals who are concerned about luxury & safety

AGE GROUP OF USERS:

AGE GROUP	% OF TRAVELERS
0 - 17 years	9%
18 - 30 years	22%
31 - 45 years	40%
46 - 60 years	14%
Above 60 years	15%



Users of different ages & different strata of society

^{*} All figures stated have been collected from CRSE, AC section, WR, courtesy: Census of IR passengers for the year 2004.

PURPOSE OF TRAVEL:

Business trips
Company sponsored trips
Leisure One- day trips (short trips)
Tours (foreigners, NRIs)
Vacation trips
Reservation for National Awardees

REASONS FOR CHOICE OF AC CHAIR CAR:

Safety (especially for women traveling alone)
Comfort & luxury
Psychological aspects of comfort like less crowd, no
beggars or other disturbances
Can work during travel hours and still feel fresh.

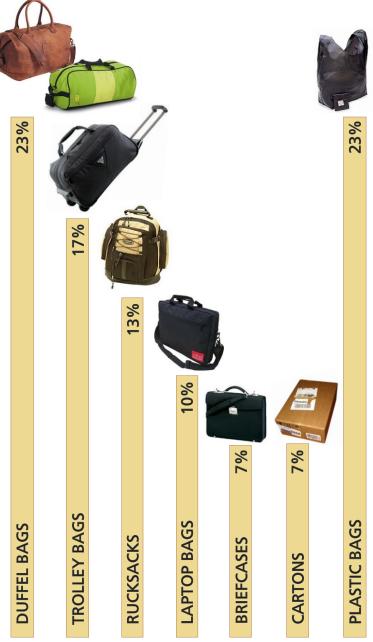
TYPES OF LUGGAGE:

PERSONAL LUGGAGE CARRIED

Personal handbags
Laptops
I-pods
Mobile phones
Walkman
Foodstuff apart from their heavy luggage

ISSUES FOR LUGGAGE SPACE:

- Safety of luggage storage
- Accessibility of luggage stored
- Every passenger carries at least 2-3 bags.

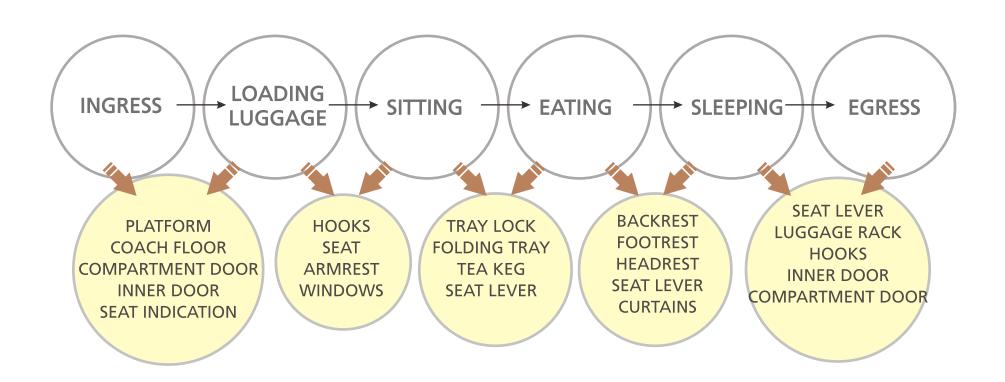


* All figures stated have been collected from study carried out by the design team over four different routes in the same season

Listing/ representing in detail, all tasks, actions, objects, performers and interactions involved in the process.

Listing all things that can go wrong when using a product and determine the various possible causes

ACTIVITY FLOW DIAGRAM



INGRESS

Owing to the fact that the inner compartment has to be airconditioned, the entry doors will have to avoid leakage of cold air to the external area.

Hence, the system should allow for passengers to move in easily with luggage in hand and yet provide a full-proof solution for maintaining the air-conditioned environment within the internal compartment.



LOADING LUGGAGE

Users need to keep luggage visibly close to them for assurance of security and at the same time, the bags should be easily accessible, sometimes even during the time of the journey. Secure storage solutions are a must to avoid accidents



SEATING

Chairs are where the passenger spends most of the travel time and should be comfortable enough to accommodate a multitude of postures like sitting, squatting, sleeping, eating, etc. The mechanisms used for reclining features and amenities should work consistently, because the repair cycle time of the Railways is slow. Privacy is a main issue to be addressed in the seating elements - for sharing armrests and using amenities



The design of the tray should accommodate for larger trays and cater to a variety of functions apart from eating. With the amount of vibration from the movement of the train, the vibration of the tray should be dampened in the new design to avoid serious accidents of spilling of hot drinks. The tray should also be designed to take sudden impacts from accidents or emergency situations.





SLEEPING

For sleeping, the head and neck support are crucial, since passengers spend most of the travel time relaxing and sleeping.

The passengers tends to draw his legs close to the body while sleeping and adequate footrest support should be provided. Lighting should not interfere with the sleeping activity.

HVAC & VENTILATION

The air-conditioning provided should be uniformly distributed along the entire length of the compartment. The temperature cannot be controlled individually, however, personal controls for air-draft pressure should be provided. Heaters could be provided for use during cold seasons in colder places.



LIGHTING

Ambient lighting and task lighting should be handled differently in the compartment. The ambient lighting levels should be diffused and should not interfere with the sleeping activity. At the same time, individual task lighting should cater to more intense functions of reading, working, etc. Energy conservation is a key issue to be addressed, considering the fact that the lights are lit all through the journey time.

USER AMENITIES

Integration of all amenities into common units which can be individually controlled for maximum comfort and ease of use. The amenities provided should be intuitively used and should not create confusions. The amenities could also provide for changes with advancements in technology.

INDUSTRY FEEDBACK

Fig.4.1

Bench- marking diffferent transport systems - Aircraft and Metro interiors

Meetings were held with the design team at GE Plastics in Gurgaon to discuss the user study and design concerns that would be taken up for study basis during conceptualization.

The design team helped in redefining the product brief in accordance with understanding the process of design employed by the Indian Railways. Further light was shed on design for ease of manufacture and durability in design by Mr. Ritesh Gohil at Harita Seating, Bangalore.

GE PLASTICS, GURGAON - MR. ANAND HINGNE & DESIGN TEAM FEEDBACK

HIERARCHY OF PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN PROJECT



With the Application Development activity, GE Plastics was already involved with the Indian Railways and are well acquainted with the aspects of implementation revolving around cost angle. The Indian Railways however, does not have ideas of costing and tendering with the notion of tooling and component cost

GEPLASTICS







Bench- marking foreign train systems



- 2) The data collection should entail **bench marking** other modes of travel on parallel lines like
 - Aircraft interiors Boeing aircraft inetriors, Airbus interiors
 - Luxury bus coaches interiors Volvo luxury buses, large fleet services operation from Mumbai to Pune
 - International Rail systems (TGV designs employed by the SNCF, German metro services in Bonn and Dusseldorf)

The design team must look into more areas of Chair car routes to study the imported LHB railway coaches that are already being employed by the Indian railways

- 3) The major pain areas of the Indian Railways are:
- Seating elements have to be redesigned Harita seating and Surat seating are already involved in analyzing the major faults with the existing design, and developing an ideal solution to suit the Indian user's needs.
- Luggage storage solutions are a dire need in the space Another major pain area, causing so many accidents every year, which could be addressed separately, working with the various OEM's involved in this area
- Wall paneling in the interior compartment catering to daylightopenings and user amenities integrated within the panel, including lighting solutions and holders, hooks, etc. The design could be independently handled in association with Leers Ltd, Pune, for further development

HARITA SEATING



Bus seat designs developed by Harita Seatings - providing the SLUMBERITT eliminates the need for a footrest for long distance journeys

A typical seat design incorporated in the luxury Volvo bus designs with the slumberitts

HARITA SEATING, BANGALORE - MR. RITESH GOHIL

- 1) Ease of manufacture for plastic productions and detailing structural PP (injection molding) was suggested for use in elements owing to the existing huge dependence of the automotive industry on this production process
- 2) Safety issues in case of Fire, Derailing and other Emergency situations
- 3) Durability and Design for Vandalism, owing to the context of use
- 4) Ease of replaceability and repair on the spot replaceability as well as yard servicing, understanding the attitude towards assembly scheme and fixing.
 - 5) Joinery and details ideal for Indian conditions sliding details do not last as long as the pivoted joints over extreme use and load.
- 6) The use of a "slumberitt", can actually avoid the need for a footrest in the seating element. The slumberitt has been used successfully in the new design for most of the luxury Volvo buses

And can be very comfortable especially for long journey hours.

5.IDEA GENERATION

CONCEPT SKETCHING

From this stage on, concepts were developed taking into consideration the basic dimensions of the elements coming into the defined shell structure. Taking cues from existing aircraft interiors and metro rail systems of other countries, (Shiangkansen -Japan, Underground Tube - London and TGV - SNCF -France), concept ideas were generated for individual elements that existed in the user amenities zone. Clusters of ideas were generated based on user's needs and requirements of the Indian Railways

TARGETED AREAS

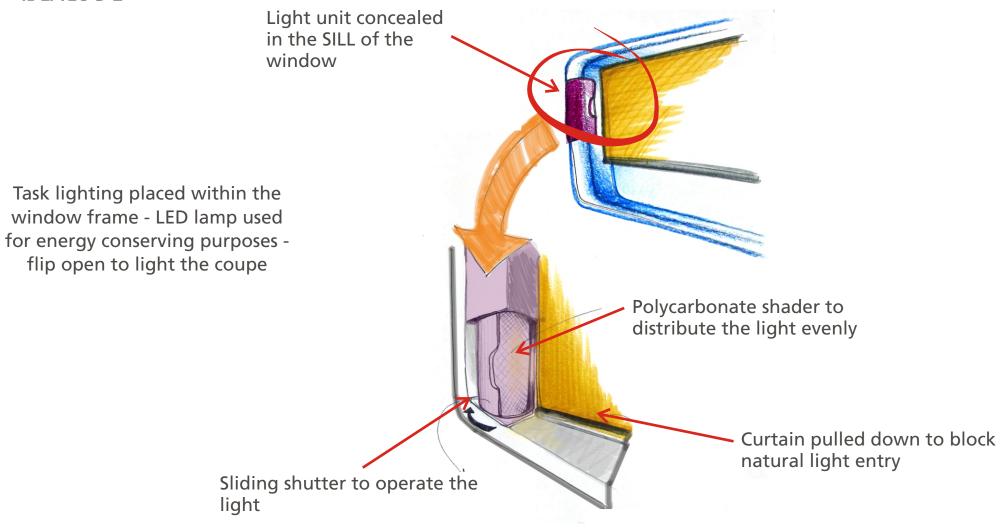
Creating sense of privacy for personal spaces Maximizing the use of space for user amenities

Luggage Storage solutions (heavy & personal luggage) Natural & Artificial Lighting Solutions

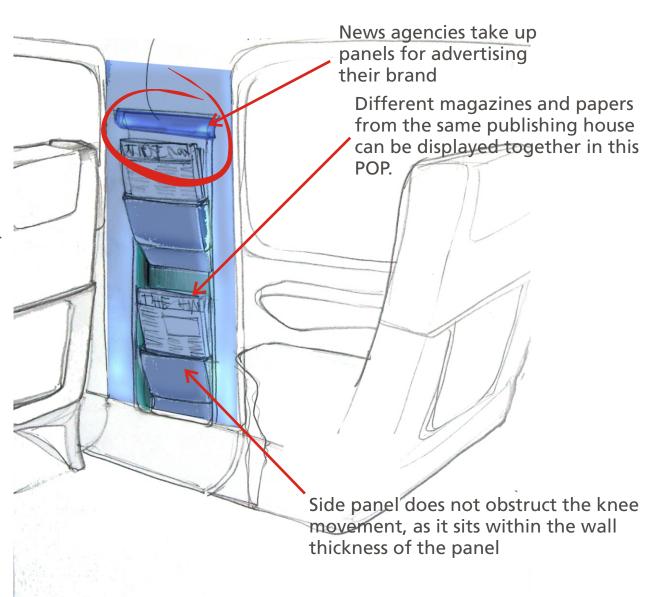
User Amenities (Bottle & Cup holder, Food tray, Mobile charging sockets, magazine rack, lighting controls)

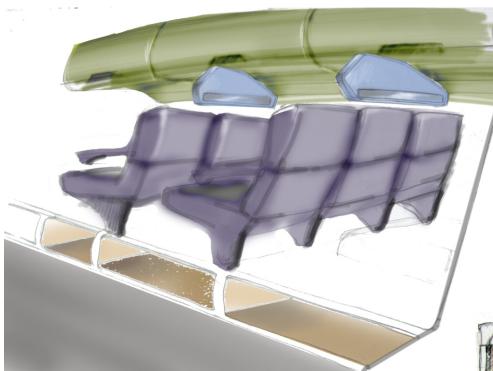
Layouts within the coach - breaking away from existing layout Using coaches manufactured by the RCF (Kapurtala) or ICF (PERAMBUR), registered by the Indian Railways only.

IDEALOG 1 Plastic screens are more hygienic to use than fabric curtains Plastic screens that can be pulled down to any desired length to control natural light entry Twist to operate rope lights placed at the end seam of the plastic screen for windows -Task lighting solution Pivoted Lamp cover Rope Lighting encased within the seam



Side panels are employed for Newspaper branding - reputed news agencies can put up their rack to serve as magazine

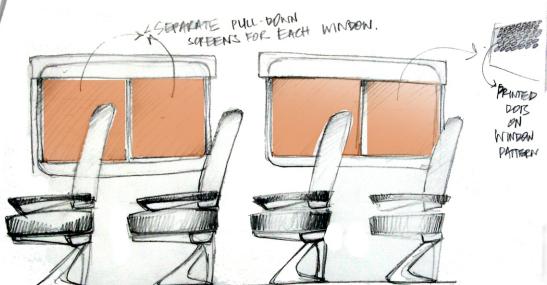


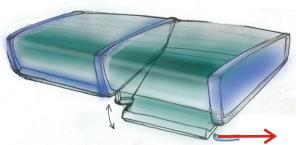


Roof mounted PA systems to inform about the train timings and arriving stations; overhead luggage storage as inspired from the aircraft interiors

IDEALOG 5

Individual window screens for the existing layout where most windows are shared by two passengers - so individual access to light filtering in





Rack tilts down allowing luggage to slip till RIDGE Delayed release load bay using dampeners

IDEALOG 8



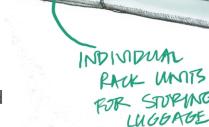
Luggage storage solutions to avoid slipping down into the aisle area; Nylon wire sacks provided below hooks to avoid bags tearing and falling down; Kinks in the end section to create a stopper for luggage slipping down from overhead rack.

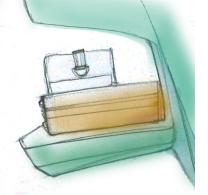
IDEALOG 7

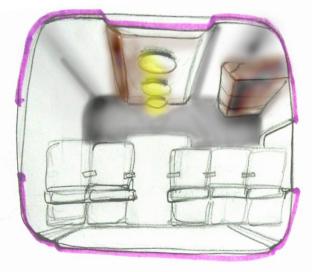


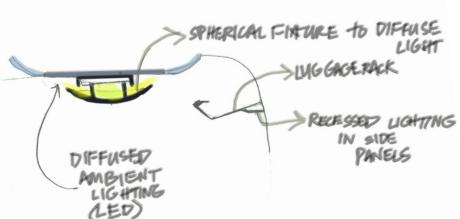


Inspired from the Weaver bird's nest, which does not allow the eggs to fall out, luggage can safely be stored

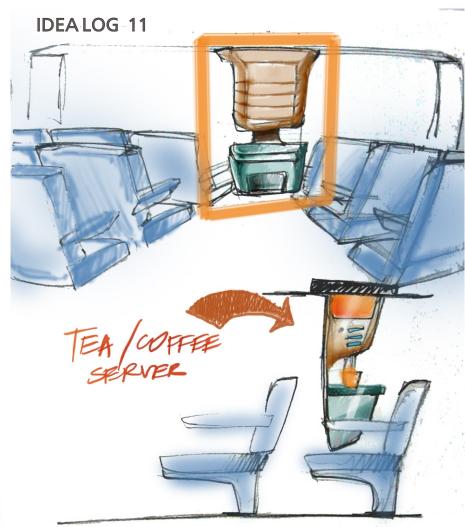








Ambient lighting solutions - LED lamps placed along the central aisle in spherical fixtures to



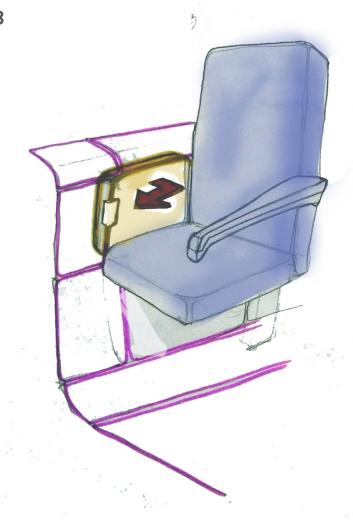
Hot drink service by robotic machine that marches up and down the aisle as and when required - eliminated the mess created by the pantry servers in the compartment

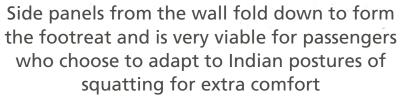
SLEEPING CONSOLES



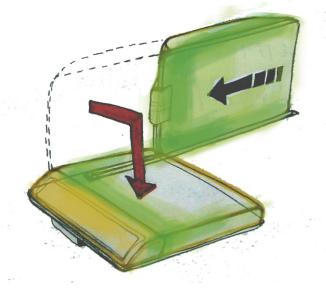
Creates a private niche for every passenger

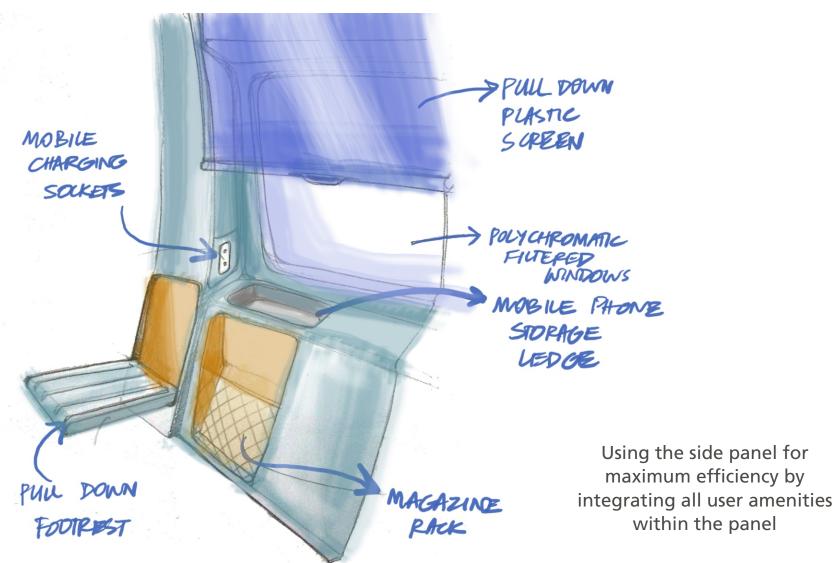
Providing a separate niche for privacy when sleeping - CONSOLES can be folded down from the roof and used with access to amenities like music, lighting for reading purposes, etc.



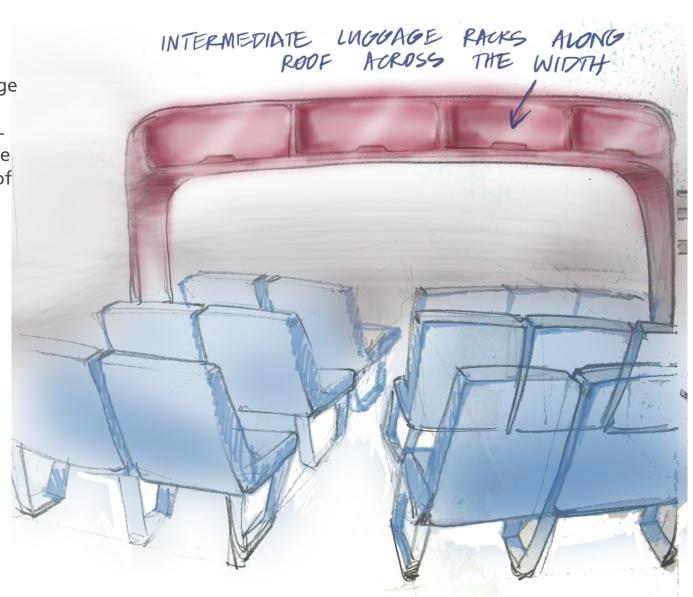




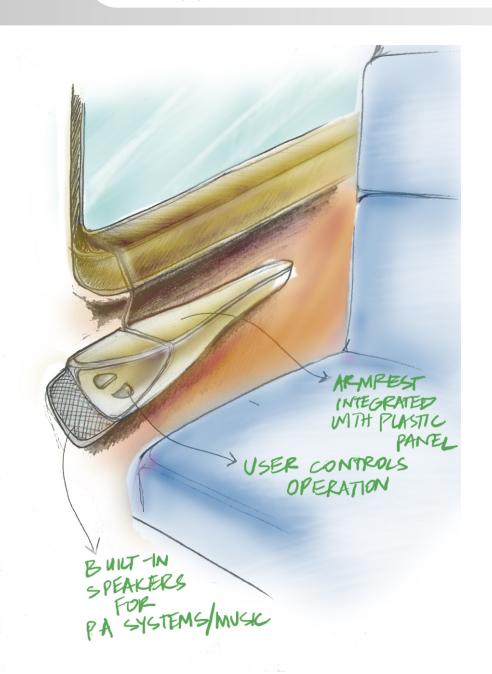




Intermediate luggage storage across the width of the compartment on the roof -Provides extra storage space and breaks the monotony of the visual clutter



Armrest with user controls and speakers are integrated into the side panel moulding



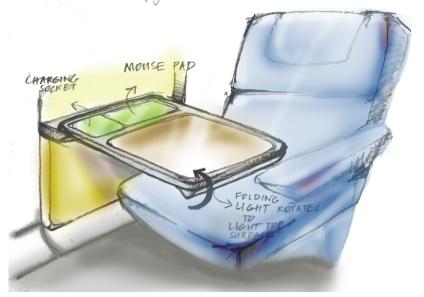
WORK PLATFORM FOR TRAVELLING BUSINESSMEN:

Indian Railways

vientes a separate "CLASS"

charges a slightly higher FARE for
"WINDOW SFATS"

ADDED COMFORTS: 15" X 12" WORK SUPFACE divided into squate (for LAPTOPS



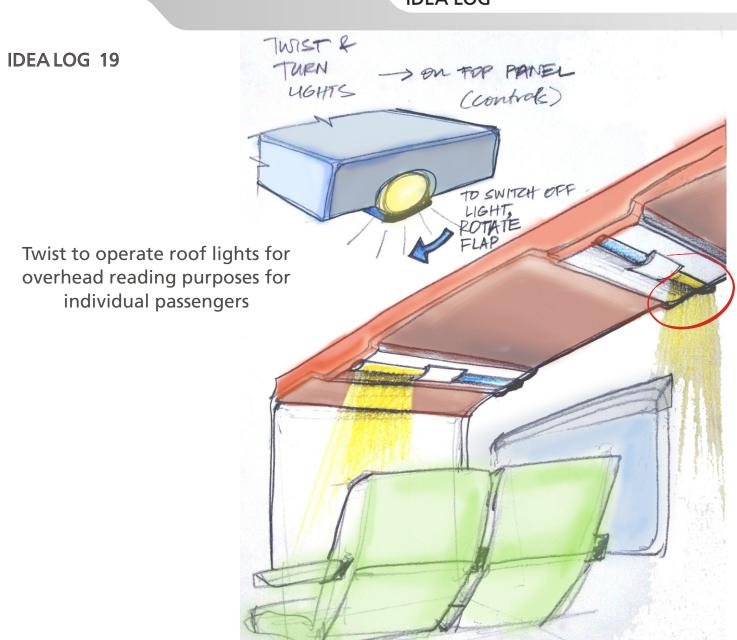
Working surface where laptop and mobile phone can be plugged in for charging;

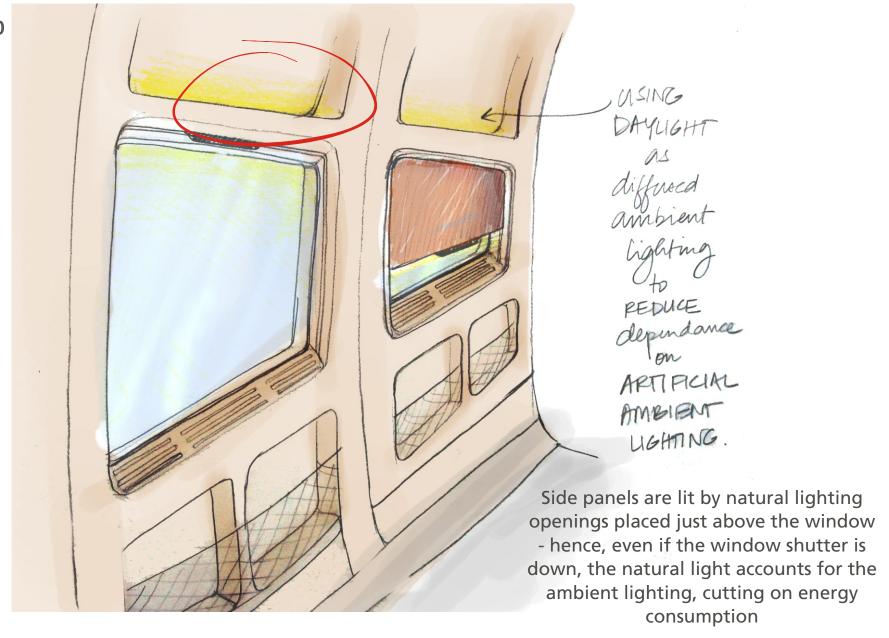
Surface level task lighting is also provided for;

The tray is folded down into the side panel

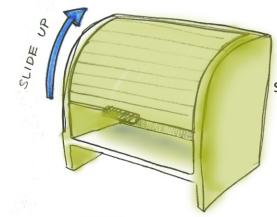


Side panels holds the bottle holder and cup holder for easy

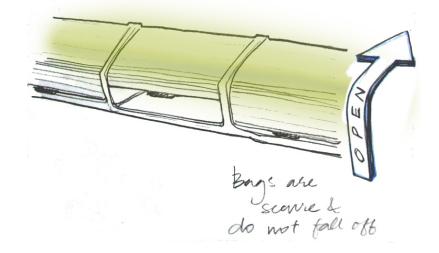




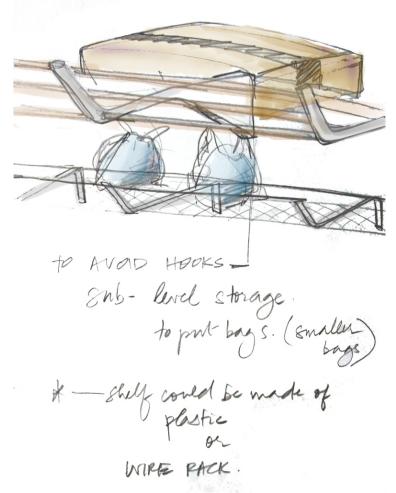




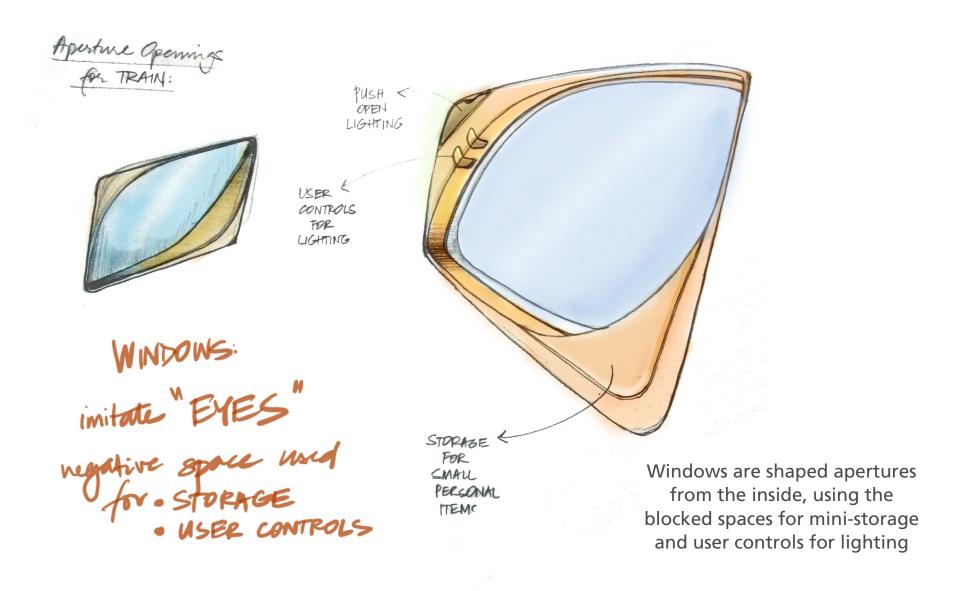
Cabinet style luggage rack with front covers that slide open and self-lock using the dead weight mechanism behind

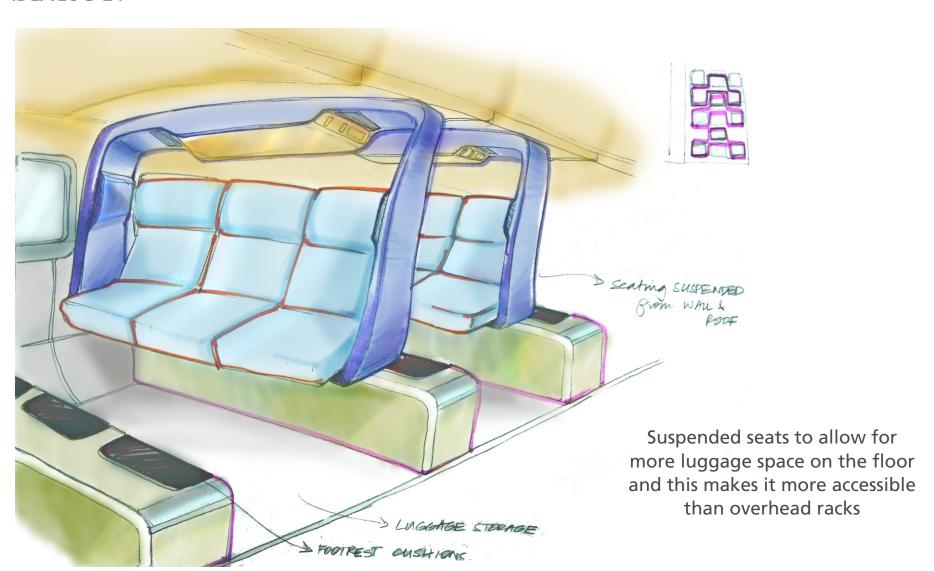


IDEALOG 22



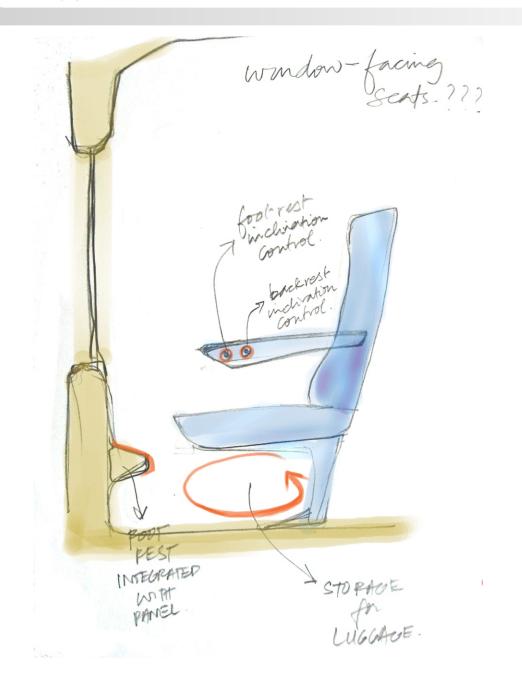
Luggage storage for smaller bags at the lower intermediate level to avoid the use of hooks





Seats could face the window with the footrest incorporated into the side panel for more comfort.

Each window could accommodate for two passengers?

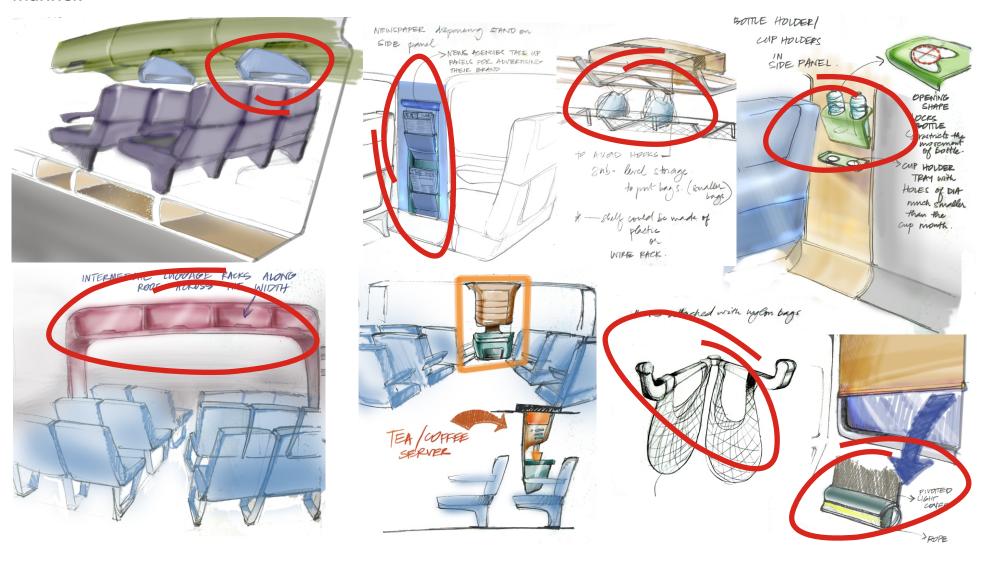


3 CLUSTERS FORMED



SIMILAR ORGANIZATION

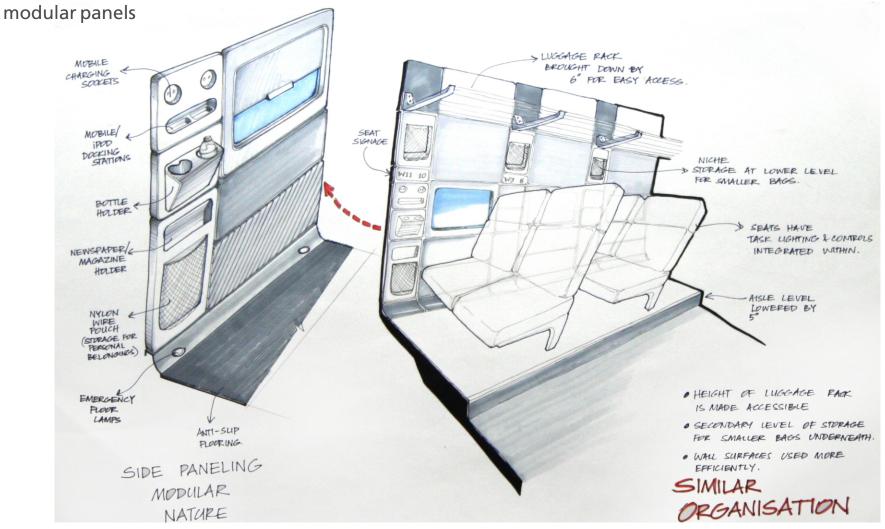
The idea was to maintain the existing configuration (2 + 3 seating arrangement) and make the basic changes with the user amenities which would also be incorporated by the Indian Railways in the easiest manner.



CONCEPT 1 - SIMILAR ORGANIZATION

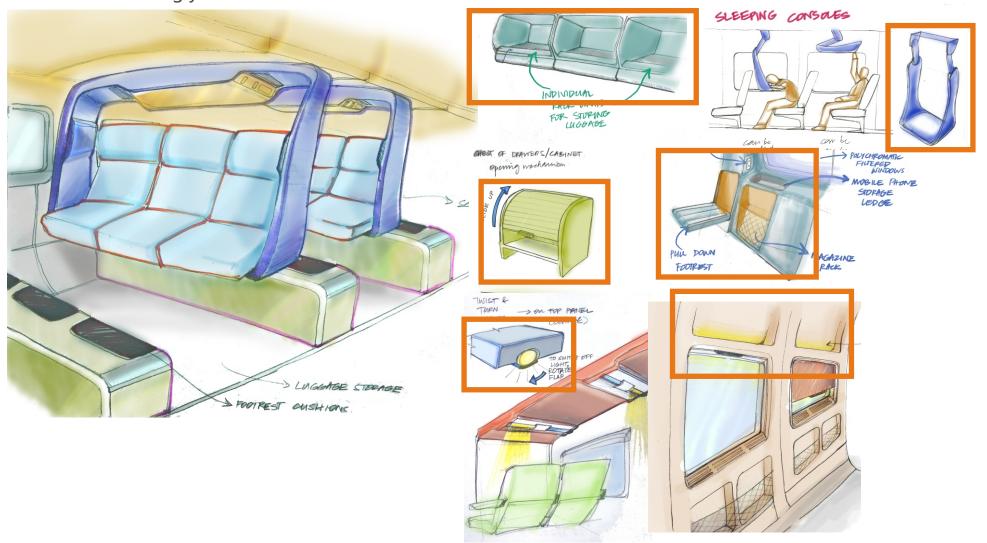
Keeping the same layout of the existing AC Chair car, (2 + 3 seating arrangement), one has attempted to bring down the luggage rack and create a step in the seating area, making the luggage more accessible to most users. This option however, cuts out the headroom in the seating area.

Secondary level of storage is provided for smaller bags. Wall surfaces are used more efficiently with the use of



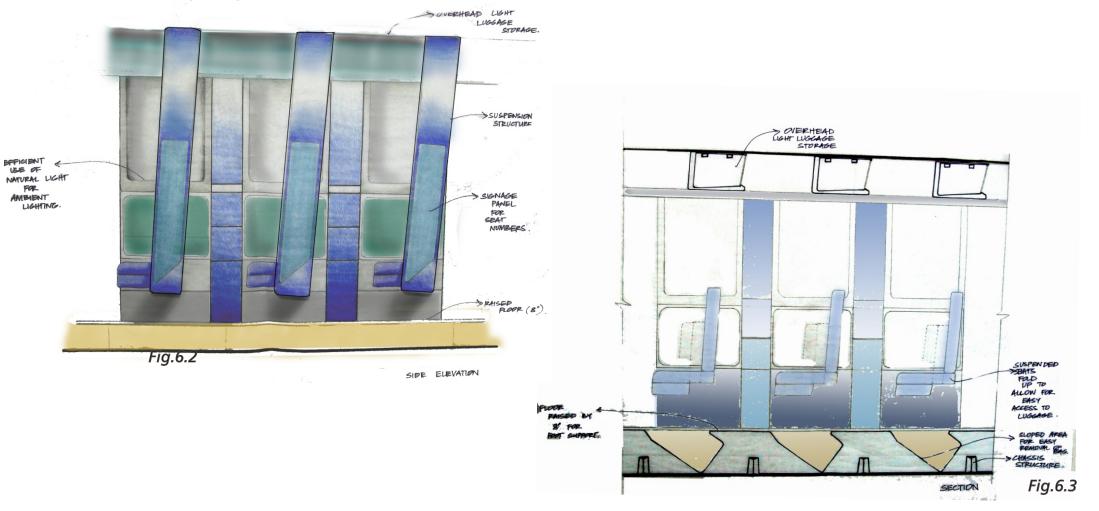
SUSPENDED SEATING ARRANGEMENT

The cluster was formed on basis of the idea of better luggage accessibility and directing the storage space towards the floor space, thereby placing the seats at a higher position from the ground and addressing the user amenities accordingly.



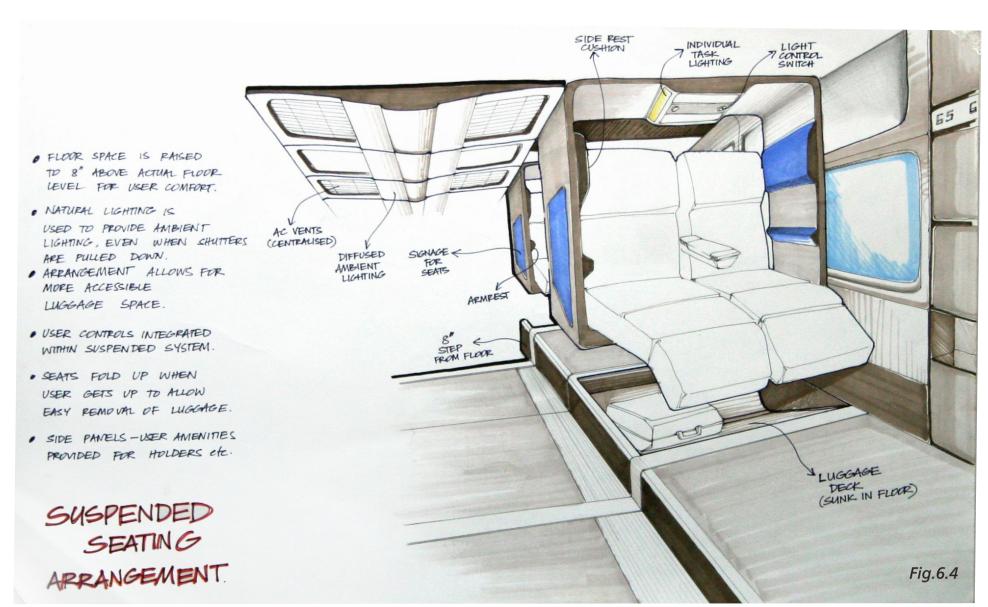
CONCEPT 2 - SUSPENDED SEATING ARRANGEMENT

Using the 2+2 seating arrangement, the floor space is raised to 8" above the actual floor level for user comfort. This allows for more accessible luggage space, further the seats fold up to make the luggage more accessible. User controls are integrated within the suspended system. Natural lighting is used to provide ambient lighting, even when shutters are pulled down. Side panels provide for user amenities.



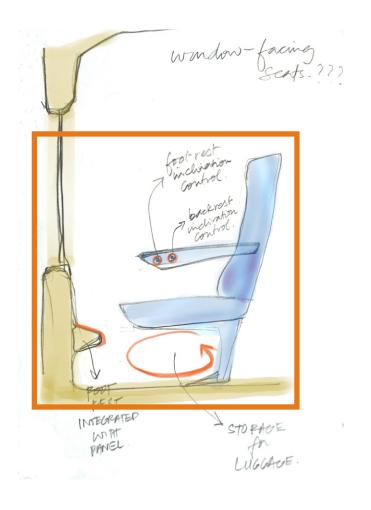
SUSPENDED SEATING ARRANGEMENT

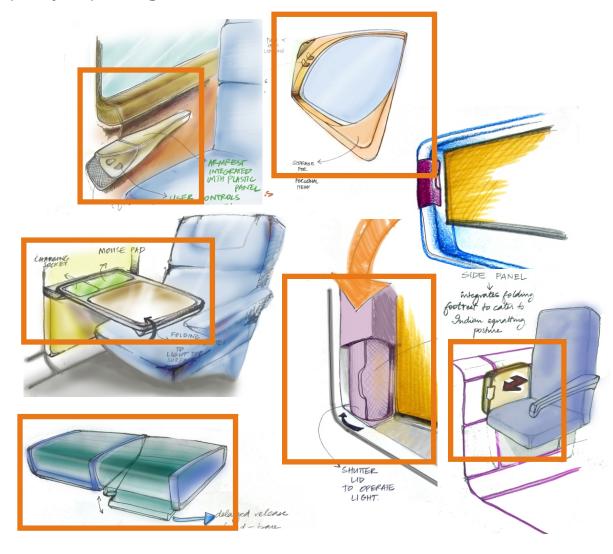
CONCEPT 2 - SUSPENDED SEATING ARRANGEMENT



SINGLE SEATING ARRANGEMENT

This cluster started from the idea of providing the passenger utmost luxury and comfort with maximum space. Further, all amenities were re-directed towards the side panel and integrating all facilities including foot rest into the side wall mould. The issue of capacity of passengers in this cluster was not addressed for the time

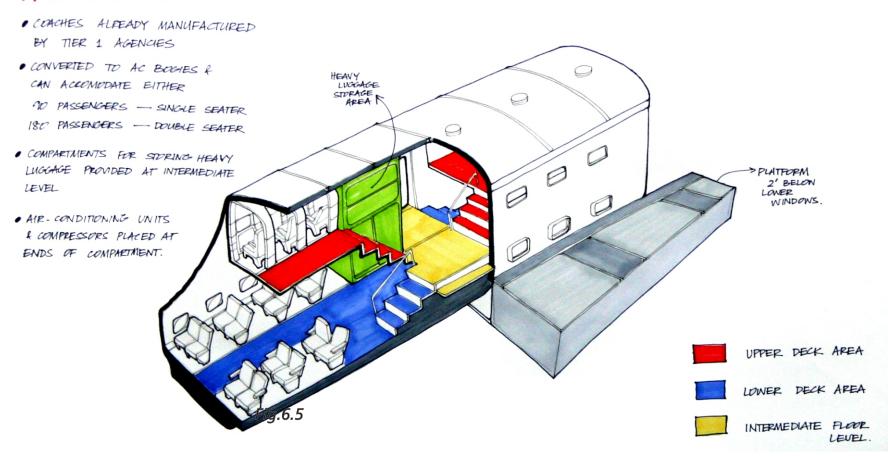




CONCEPT 3 - DOUBLE DECKER ARRANGEMENT

Employing the coaches already manufactured by the tier-one agencies [RCF(Kapurtala) and ICF (Perambur)], the double decker coach could be converted into an AC Chair Car and can accommodate more passengers than the standard AC Chair Car coach, providing more luxury and space per passenger. Air conditioning units are placed as RMPU's (Roof-mounted Power Units) above the lavatories at either ends.

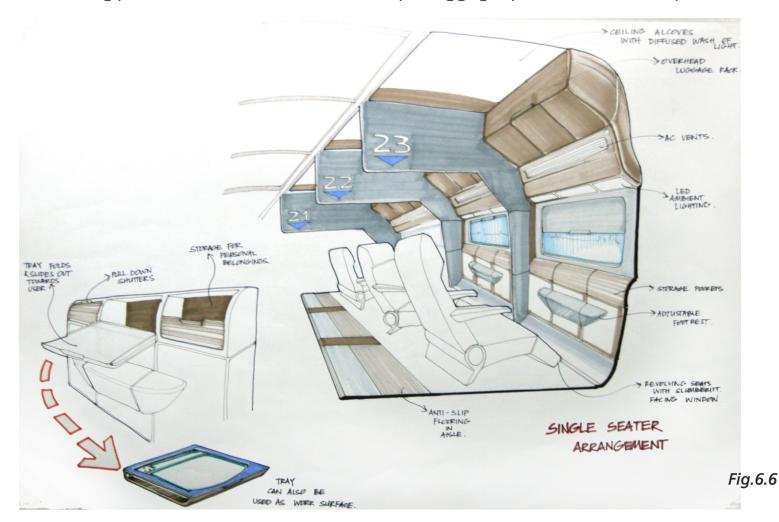
DOUBLE DECKER ARRANGEMENT



CONCEPT 3

DOUBLE DECKER ARRANGEMENT - SINGLE SEATING

Two concepts for seating within the double decker coach were arrived at. The first concept was a single seating arrangement which would be afforded by people who wouldn't mind spending for extra luxury and comfort. The single seat would have individual user-centered controls, private luggage space and extra provisions for the working professional to suit his needs. Ample luggage space would also be provided for.



CONCEPT 3

DOUBLE DECKER ARRANGEMENT - DOUBLE SEATING

The second concept deals with the 2 +2 seating arrangement, with overhead storage space for smaller luggage. User amenities are provided for on the side panels. The space provided per passenger is a lot more than the existing configuration. Using this configuration on both the floor decks can accommodate a total of 88 passengers. With a combination of this configuration on the upper deck and the double seating arrangement on the lower deck,



CONCEPT EVALUATION

Each concept was then evaluated based on the product brief and the criteria of evaluation determined during the user study.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

COMFORT SPACE PER PASSENGER

1 (less comfortable) 9 (more comfortable)

LUGGAGE STORAGE SPACE

1 (tight space) 9 (ample storage space)

ACCESSIBILITY OF STORAGE

1 (less accessible) 9 (easily accessible)

SECURITY OF LUGGAGE STORED 1 (less secure) 9 (more secure)

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

INDIVIDUAL USER CONTROLS

1 (less no. of controls) 9 (more controls)

CAPACITY OF PASSENGERS PER COACH

1 (more dense) 9 (less dense)

ADAPTABILITY TO INDIAN RAILWAYS

1 (more changes) 9 (less no. of changes)

MAINTENANCE & SERVICING

1 (hard to maintain) 9 (easy maintenance)

MODULARITY

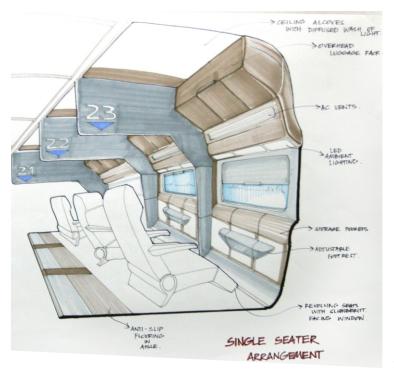
1 (less modular) 9 (more modular)

EVALUATION TABLE

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION *	EXISTING AC CHAIR CAR COACH	CONCEPT 1 SIMILAR ORG.	CONCEPT 2 SUSPENDED SEATING	CONCEPT 3 DOUBLE DECKER ARR.
COMFORT SPACE PER PASSENGER	4	4	6	8
LUGGAGE STORAGE SPACE	2	2	7	7
ACCESSIBILITY OF STORAGE	2	2	6	9
SECURITY OF LUGGAGE STORED	4	5	5	8
INDIVIDUAL USER CONTROLS	2	3	5	8
CAPACITY OF PASSENGERS PER COACH	5	5	2	7
MAINTENANCE AND SERVICING	9	8	2	4
MODULARITY IN DESIGN	6	8	4	5
ADAPTABILITY TO INDIAN RAILWAYS	9	8	5	6
TOTAL	43	45	42	62

^{*} The evaluation was carried out on a scale of 1 to 9, the criteria for which were explained in the earlier pages

FINAL PROPOSAL



REFINEMENT OF FINAL CONCEPT

Passengers today are willing to spend for the right service and comfort, and the final concept now addressed for these key issues.

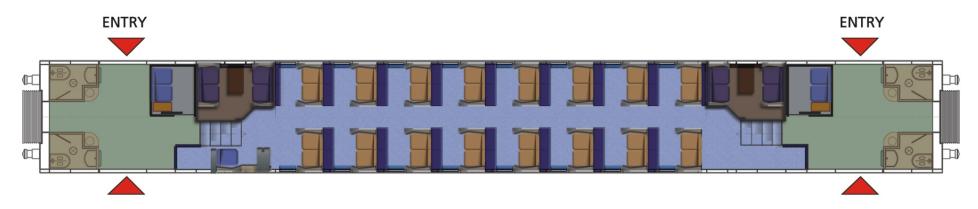
Luggage storage for most big suitcases are also catered to, with the inclusion of different user amenities in close proximity to the passenger

Comfort space provided per passenger: 1570 mm x 650 mm

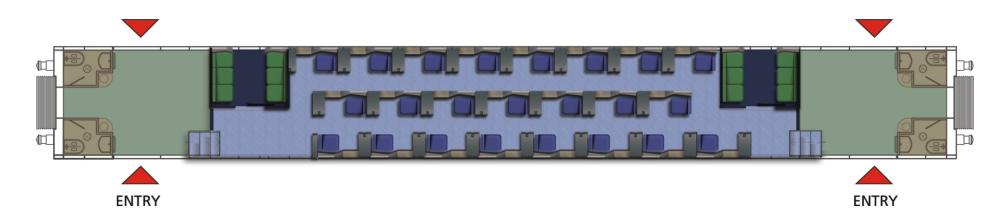
The decision to use both types of seating arrangements was finalized to provide different classes for traveling in the AC Chair Car coach.

The total capacity now increases to 80 passengers, from the 72 that the normal Chair Car coach would accommodate.

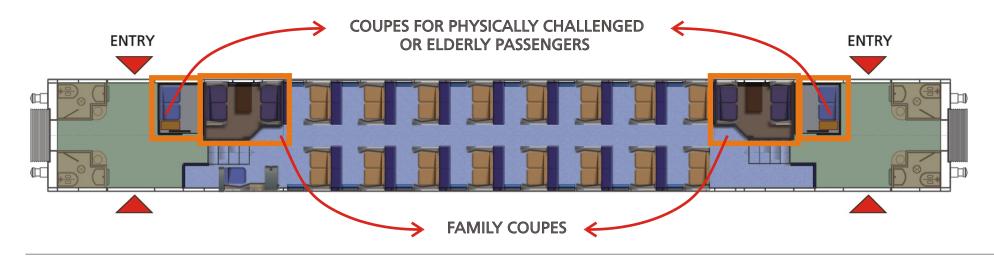
LOWER DECK LAYOUT



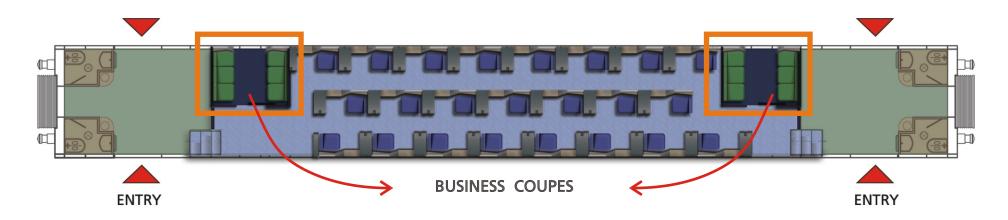
UPPER DECK LAYOUT



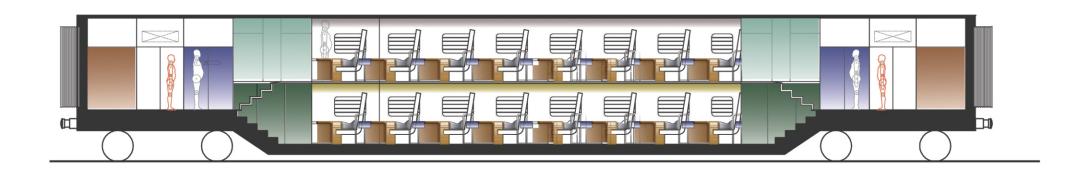
LOWER DECK FACILITIES



UPPER DECK FACILITIES



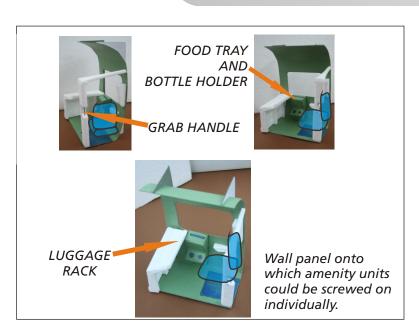
SECTION



HVACLAYOUT



DESIGN EXPLORATION



Primary amenities:

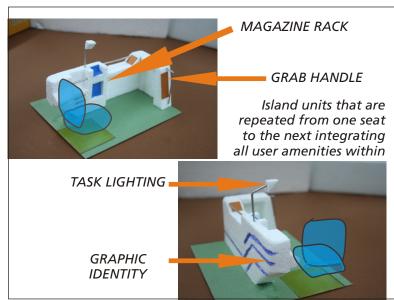
Mini-luggage storage Task Lighting Mobile phone charging facility

Secondary amenities:

Food tray Working surface Magazine rack Shawl and pillow storage

Tertiary amenities:

Heavy luggage storage Grab handles Seat number indication



DESIGN EXPLORATION



Main structure of Tangles on sides

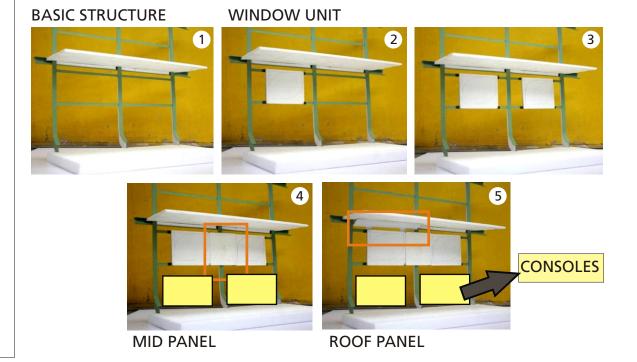
Curtain steel used in spanning members (3.15 mm thick)

L-angles used as tie members



Assembly methods were established by use of exploratory models and the final sequence of assembly was decided as:

Basic structure Windows Mid panel Roof panel Consoles



DESIGN EXPLORATION

USER AMENITIES CONSOLE

Island units were explored with understanding the different degrees of user amenities and keeping in mind the provision for visible luggage storage

ADVANTAGES

Close proximity of the amenities

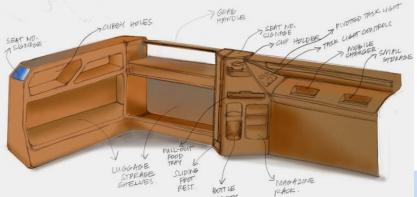
Luggage stored is visible
Ample leg room to stretch out
Maintenance easy design
Integrated with the wall panels
Design against vandalism

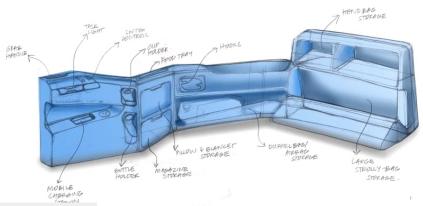
DISADVANTAGES

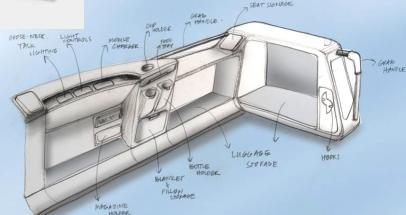
Material waste with too many back panels

Visual clutter may add with the bulk of each console unit

Form of console does not allow for mirroring elements and hence have to be rotated

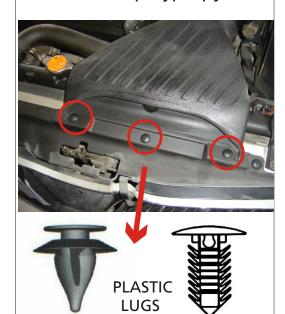






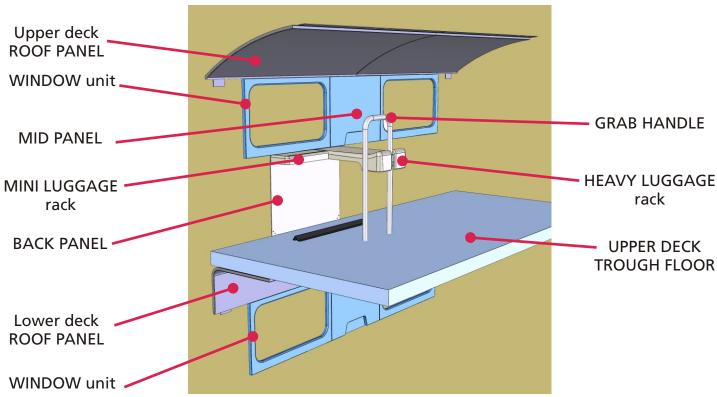


Internal panels used in automotives are also made of structural polypropylene

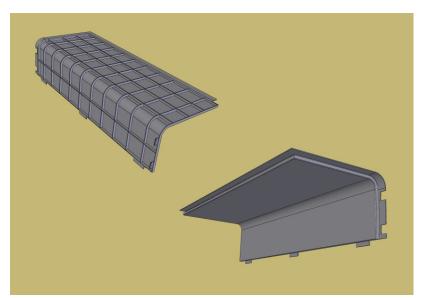


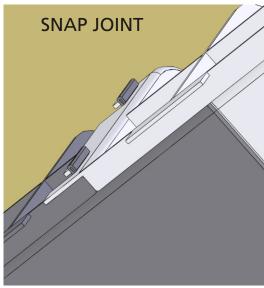
With the use of more injection moulded parts in the automotive industry, the detailing of the plastic elements assembled together was decided along the same lines and is discussed in this chapter.

Acoustic ally treated wall panels and floor mats are three-dimensionally formed in structural polypropylene by injection moulding or if required can also be SMC parts. These technologies make it possible to integrate more functionality in the same parts.



A log of all the parts assembled together are listed below:

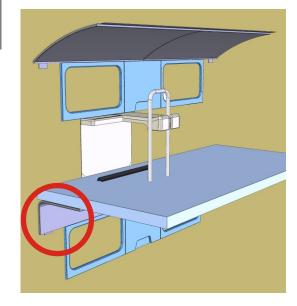


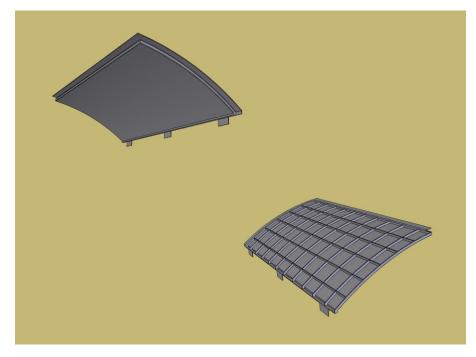


LOWER DECK ROOF PANEL

FEATURES:

Structural polypropylene member used for spanning 1.5 m Roof panel will hold ambient lighting units. Checkered grid is provided on the back side for strengthening The panels will be snapped together on the sides for locking Panels will be screwed on the top tot he roof structure

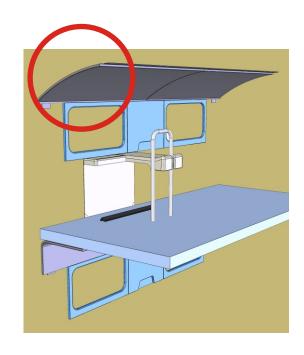


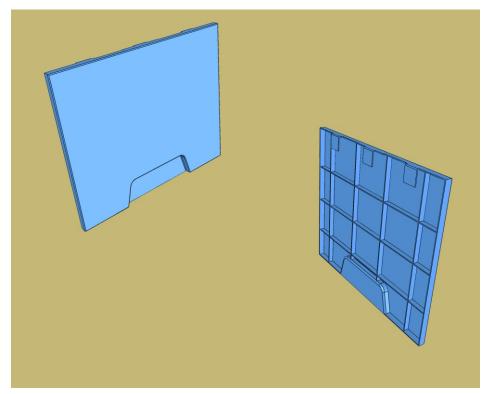


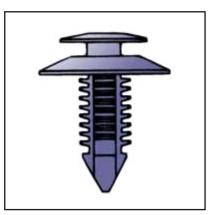
UPPER DECK ROOF PANEL

FEATURES:

Structural polypropylene member used for spanning 1.5 m Roof panel will hold ambient lighting units and AC vents. Checkered grid is provided on the back side for strengthening The panels will be snapped together on the sides for locking Panels will be screwed on the top to the roof structure





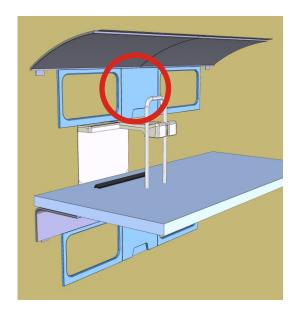


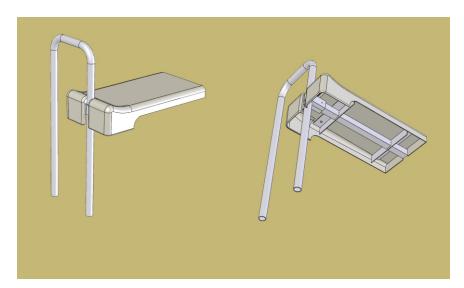
PLASTIC LUG using Christmas tree detail

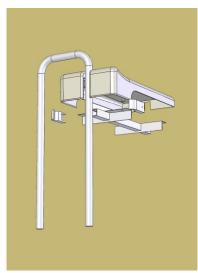
MID-PANEL

FEATURES:

Structural polypropylene member used for mid panel
Mid-panel will have seat number indication.
Checkered grid is provided on the back side for strengthening
The panels will be hung from the top onto the structure
Panels will be screwed on the bottom to structure using plastic lugs/ metal screws







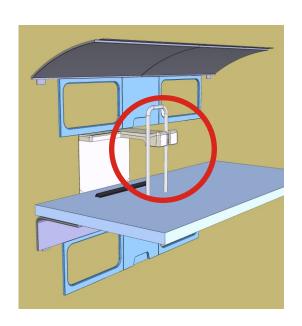
HEAVY LUGGAGE RACK

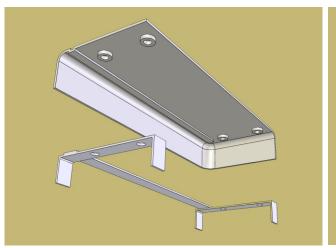
FEATURES:

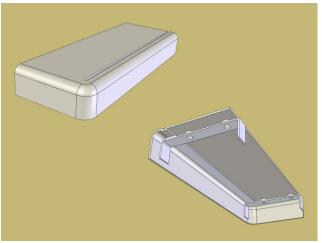
Structural polypropylene member used for heavy luggage rack Smaller luggage is placed on top and heavy luggage is stored on the ground below the rack, restrained by an elastic strap.

Support structure of MS is welded onto main frame of train structure The grab handle is made of GI pipe with shrink- wrapped fire-proof PVC coating or with (SS pipe and PU foam grip)

Plastic rack is screwed onto support structure using plastic bosses









FLOOR STOPPER

MINI LUGGAGE RACK

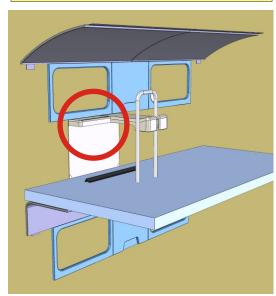
FEATURES:

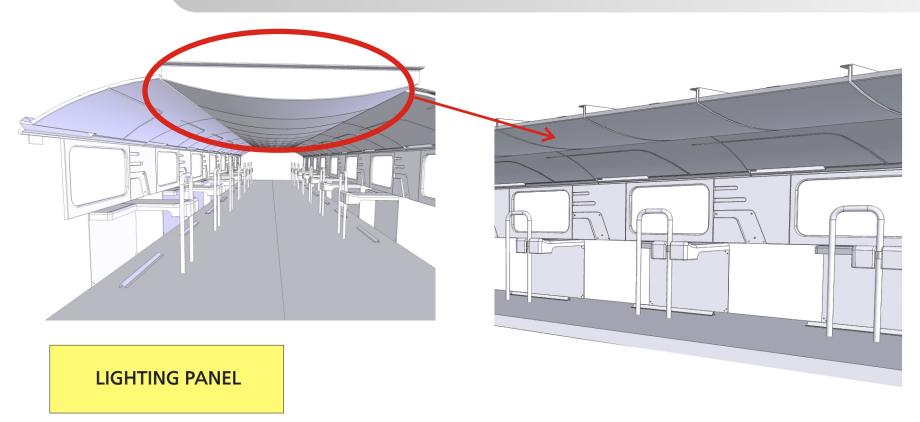
Structural polypropylene member that sits on metal frame structure MS metal frame is welded onto main structure of train.

PLASTIC BOSSES are screwed to the structure.

The back panel continues from below this rack to the ground with an elastic restrainer to keep luggage in place.

Floor stopper prevents the luggage from sliding into the aisle





FEATURES:

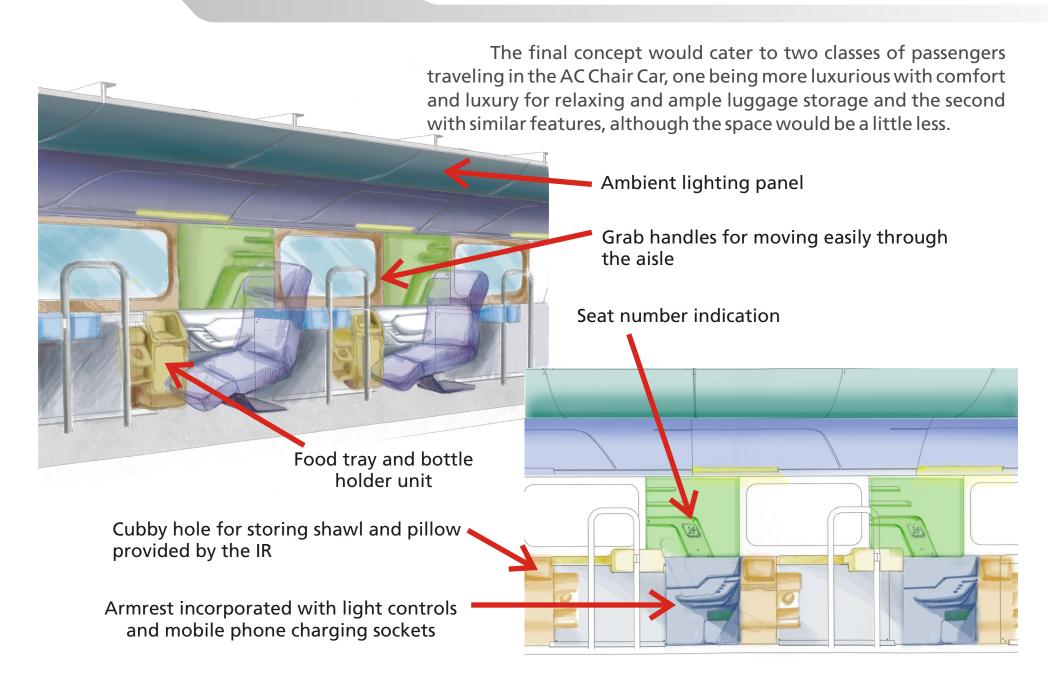
Structural polypropylene member that hooks onto the aluminium frame above

PLASTIC SNAPS and tamper-proof screws help in fixing onto overhead supporting frame

Each panel is placed in series with a little offset from the roof panels to allow the diffused light from the LED lamps to filter out.

Each panel can be easily replaced in case of bulb fuse or any electrical maintenance.

USER AMENITIES

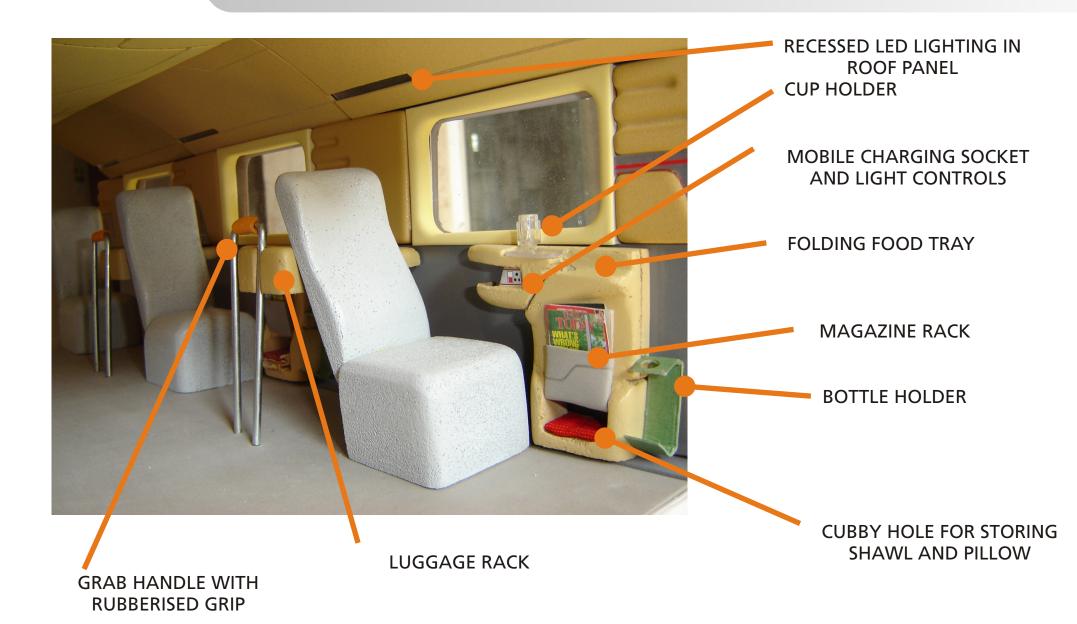






LOWER DECK DOUBLE SEATING LAYOUT







BACK LIT SIGNAGES FOR SEAT NUMBER INDICATION

LUGGAGE STORED ON THE FLOOR AND IS RESTRAINED BY ELASTIC BANDS

