



AIRPORT OPENS

Concourse A Expansion to Rave Reviews



Concourse A Expansion – Phase I at Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) is now open and receiving rave reviews. The nine-gate, 229,807-square foot addition is the first completed project under the Destination CLT initiative, a \$2.5 billion capital investment program to renovate the concourses and expand CLT’s roadways, curb front, airfield and terminal.

Charlotte Douglas last debuted mainline gates 15 years ago with the expansion of Concourse D. The new addition increases CLT’s gate capacity by 10 percent, housing United (Gates A21, A23, A25 & A27), Southwest (Gates A24 & A26), JetBlue (Gate A22), Frontier and Air Canada airlines (Gates A28 & A29).

Southwest Airlines was the first airline to operate on the new gates with a 5:20 a.m. departure July 18 to Houston.

Special features inside the expansion include 733 electrochromic window panes, each containing its own Mac address. The panes automatically tint according to sunlight exposure to control climate and light in the building.

Interconnected, the largest public artwork of its kind in the nation and visible from both inside and outside the terminal, serves as the addition’s showpiece. Created by California artist Refik Anadol, the digital artwork is comprised of three hi-definition LED media walls, measuring over 2,000 square feet, that display constantly changing dynamic abstract visualizations derived from airport operations data (flight arrivals and departures, baggage handling and ground transportation).

Terrazzo flooring spans the center walkways of the expansion to easily accommodate rolling luggage.

Another bonus for travelers, all 957 chairs in the gate seating areas have two USB ports and a power plug, allowing passengers to charge their various electronic devices without having to leave their seat.

Amenities include a Mother’s Room for nursing moms and a Pet Relief Area with an automatic flusher. Restrooms are equipped with modern finishes and water-saving toilets and sinks.



Exterior View of Concourse A Expansion – Phase I

CLT’s signature rocking chairs scattered throughout the addition highlight the southern charm.

For shopping and dining, concession choices include TripAdvisor and Starbucks. Panera Bread, Smashburger, Charlotte’s Landing, InMotion, Jamba Juice, The Body Shop, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory, an additional Starbucks and the popular local brewery - NoDa Bar will open in coming weeks.

The addition spans 110 feet, 30 feet wider than CLT’s other concourses, creating a wide open, spacious feel accented with high ceilings, scenic windows and 32-cast forged steel column bases custom designed for the expansion.

Overall cost of the project, which also includes construction of the concrete ramp and taxiway lanes, is approximately \$200 million that will be paid for by CLT’s \$3 per passenger facility charge and future general airport revenue bonds.

Turner Rodgers, a joint venture, were construction contractors for the expansion. C Design and Perkins+Will were the design team.

The Airport will begin renovations on the existing Concourse A in September encompassing new ceiling tiles, carpet in the seating areas, wall panels, upgraded seating with integrated power, terrazzo flooring in the center walkway and fresh coats of paint. American Airlines and Delta Air Lines will occupy the gates when completed.

Meanwhile, renovations on Concourse B are scheduled for completion by early 2019. Next year, crews also will begin renovations on Concourses C, D and E.

CLT is a self-supporting enterprise fund that continues to follow a demand driven approach. Projects are built when the growth requires it. No local tax money is used to pay daily operating costs. Funds come from Airport generated revenue, including parking, concessions, landing fees, rental cars, advertising, cargo and terminal rents and fees.



Digital Sculptor artist Refik Anadol



Photographs by www.richtaylorphoto.com

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