

HAMPTONS DIRECT

On a par with the chicest and most well equipped FBOs nationwide and affording Hamptons bound jetsetters a brand new, lux and convenient option; Ocean Aviation is an exciting aviation facility currently under development on the east end of Long Island, NY. **By GINA SAMAROTTO**



With an anticipated completion date of April, 2015 Ocean Aviation seems to be headed in the direction of single handedly bringing decidedly first class travel back to the East Coast. Based in perennially popular and previously underserved Southampton, that chic New York waterfront community located just 69 miles from Manhattan, Ocean Aviation is poised to be the pinnacle of centrally located, luxuriously upscale travel convenience for private travelers jetting into and out of the tri-state region.

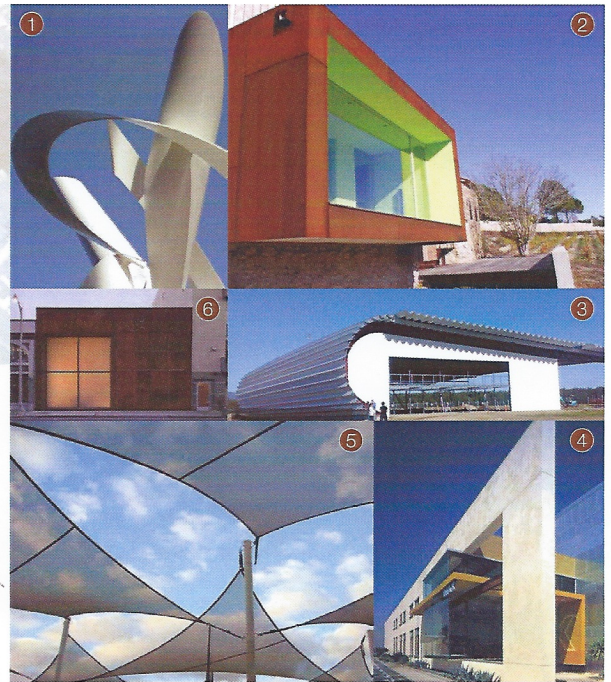
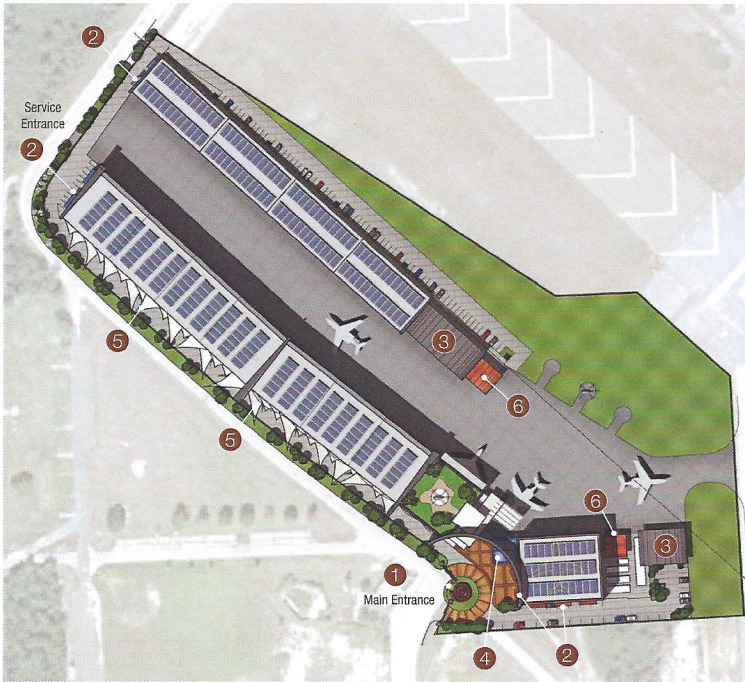
“Ocean Aviation will be spectacular. Plans for the facility are showcasing what will be a very exclusive, very elegant, exceptionally secure and private FBO. The architectural design of the project is being created by Jon Bernard of Swaback Partners, the same talent who built Hangar One in Scottsdale, Arizona,” explains Jim Reiher, company CEO.

Reiher, a savvy businessman who knows good looks when he sees them, cut his artistic teeth as a photography apprentice to Francesco Scavullo in the early eighties, eventually opening his own commercial studio. A decade later found Reiher trading in super models for super jets when he earned his commercial pilots license. After spending some time racing yachts and competing in the World Aerobatic Championships the high-flying, well-rounded entrepreneur changed his personal flight plan yet again and by 2006, Reiher was enjoying a career designing and building luxurious custom homes in the Hamptons.

This successful venture ultimately forged a path that landed Reiher squarely in the pilot’s seat of Ocean Aviation where his remarkable skill set and seemingly unrelated experiences come together in a curriculum vitae that can only be described as custom made for the role he now holds.

The project Reiher is developing is within the confines of Francis S. Grabeski airport in eastern Long Island, a location that affords clients not only the proximity to Manhattan they need, but direct access to the posh beachfront towns and villages they want. Reiher is not alone in his interest of the area; other developers have plans underway to construct an expansive business park adjacent to the airport – an addition providing even more area allure through the availability of hotel accommodations and corporate offices within a stones throw of the tarmac.

Tony though the location may be, the luxury planned for Ocean Aviation extends far past the demographic reach of the facility. Offering myriad amenities including conference rooms, private health club, theater, sleep rooms for the aviation crews, office space, bar, lounges, underground parking, helipads and even a car museum – Ocean Aviation is being designed to create an overall flight experience that is as desirable as it is functional. To complement the stunning architecture of the space, elegant features and upscale finishes through Reiher’s



collaboration with Amsterdam-based designer Kate Hume are in the works to create an overall aesthetic intended to, in the words of the designer, “Maintain the beauty of the surrounding atmosphere” while giving birth to spaces that are, “A mix of high end contemporary furniture, iconic vintage and classic pieces.”

With all due respect paid to the stellar location, stunning visuals and countless amenities Ocean Aviation promises, the real draw for potential tenants and members will be in the unique, tangible flight benefits the facility provides. Benefits that, Reiher promises, add not only to the creature comforts clients may expect but have the ability to impact favorably on the fiscal bottom line.

The 46 fully customizable hangars are being made available in a variety of sizes to accommodate everything from ‘modest’ crafts to BBJs, G650s, and going all the way up to sizes built to accept full size jets and complete corporate aero fleets. The forty-acre site will offer runways exceeding the length of those found at nearby La Guardia airport – all the better to allow larger, fully loaded aircraft to take off for long haul travel without the need for interim fueling stops. Privacy is ensured through features including dedicated security details and the availability of on-site, on-demand Department of Immigration and Customs services. Ground safety on several levels is underscored by the presence of the neighboring Air National Guard base while safety in the skies is improved by a facility designed

for multiple approaches. As opposed to the other FBO facilities located nearby, Ocean Aviation is removed from the normal terminal control area, meaning flights leaving from this location go from doors closed to wheels up with relatively unparalleled, remarkable speed and efficiency. On site management, maintenance and flight planning services will deliver personalized, reliable convenience while helicopter and seaplane availability means clients can be ferried from their hangar to midtown Manhattan in less than thirty minutes. In all, the meticulous planning and design of Ocean Aviation is an ode to visionary travel; a facility dedicated to the schedule, convenience, and comfort of its clientele.

While the cost of such privilege and convenience doesn’t come cheaply, the potential for long-term savings is nothing short of astronomical. Two fuel farms offering 164,000 gallons of ATF are available to clients at exclusive facility pricing, providing not only convenience for Ocean Aviation clients, but a cost savings that can far outweigh the initial membership investment; an opportunity with the potential to translate into budget reductions reaching well into the six, and even seven figures over time.

With his plans for Ocean Aviation soaring towards the sky and his feet planted firmly on the ground, Reiher is candid and enthusiastic in his affirmation, “Quite frankly, we are certain that our facility will be incomparable to any business or personal aircraft complex in the world”.

