Port Columbus International Airport

Terminal Modernization

Columbus, Ohio - Commercial / Industrial

With the rebound in the economy, Port Columbus International Airport elected to modernize their entire terminal complex. A budget of \$80M was used to renovate the public space of three concourses, 30 gates, three security screening checkpoints, replacement of major building systems, and the overhaul of the entire ticketing lobby.

The focal point of the project was the renovation of the ticketing lobby. The original building was constructed during the energy crises omitting all exterior windows except for a strip of 6' tall glass block. The vast space was a dark dungeon which required electric illumination even during the day in order provide a meager ½ fc of illumination. The design concept was to transform the space with natural light. The curved ticketing lobby was sandwiched between the parking garage, concourses, and a mechanical mezzanine leaving only one elevation exterior access. To bring in natural light the existing glass block was replaced with a 20' tall, floor to ceiling, curtainwall with exterior light shelves to bounce the light deep into the space. In order to bring light into the interior curve of the horse shoe shaped ticketing lobby the design team removed half of the roof and replaced it with two huge translucent skylights. The luminous skylights modulate the harsh exterior light into an evenly distributed sunlit space providing 100 fc of illumination. For ticketing counters where agents need to interact with computer screens without glare, a translucent stretched fabric ceiling provides additional light diffusion. The entrance Atrium was created to celebrate the arrival and open the entire center of the building. This 4 story space is capped by a translucent roof and provides a memorable entrance to the terminal.

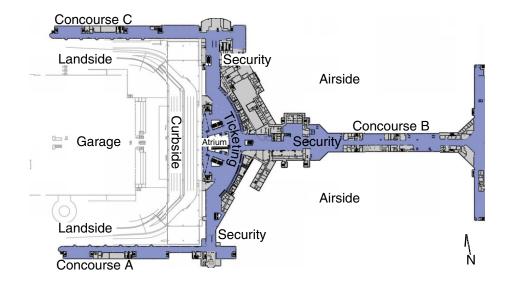
The original terminal layout was often criticized by passengers for being much like a casino... you can get in but you can never find your way out. One of the reasons was the central core of the horseshoe shaped ticketing lobby was filed with concessions. Passengers entered the building in the center of the horseshoe but once around the bend the exit was not visible. The new design focused on opening up the terminal sightlines by removing all the interior concession walls to connect the passenger to the central atrium. This way no matter where one is on the semi-circle the central entrance is visible. All major pathways are now lite directly above with translucent skylights providing intuitive wayfinding through light.

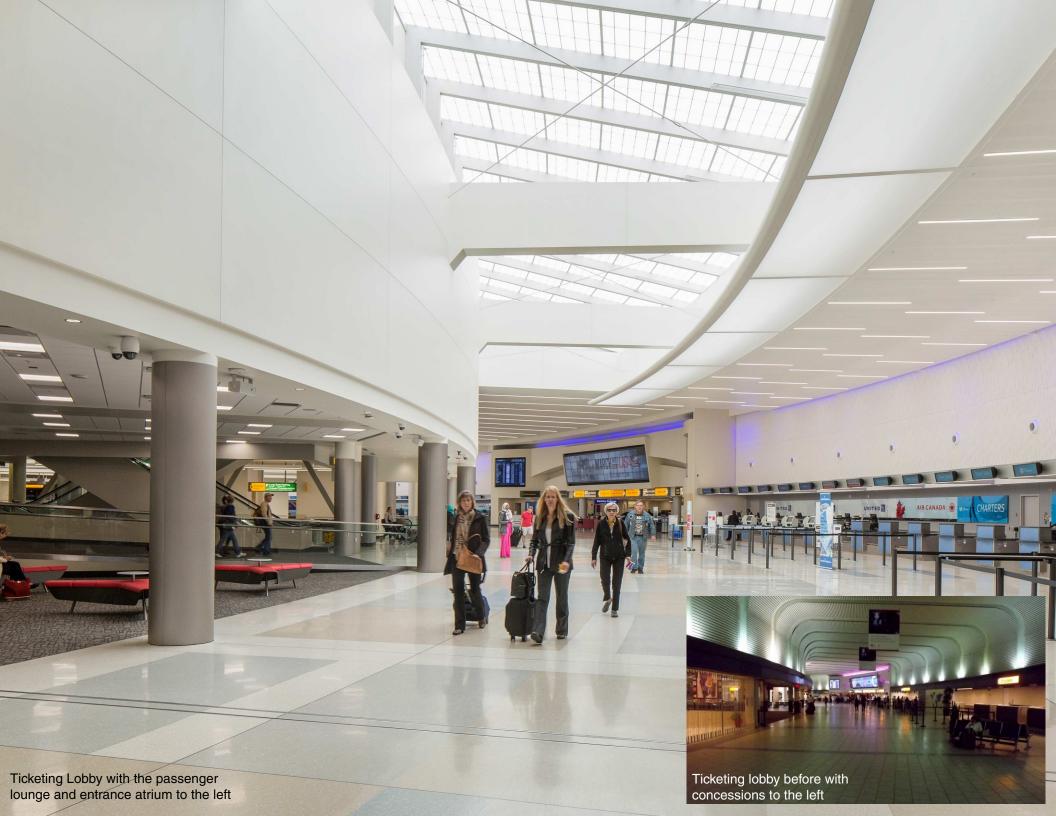
The areas previously occupied by the concessions where converted into passenger lounges which celebrate Ohio's rich aviation history (remember this is where Orville and Wilbur got their start). The three lounges each have a separate theme, from the history of the Airport, to famous Ohio aviators, and millstones for Minority Avia-

tors. A robust artwork program was incorporated in the project. Three jumbo screens above each security checkpoint display digital artwork and multi-media supported through interspersed advertising and flight display information. The centerpiece of the art program was the placement of Roy Lichtenstein's monumental sculpture "Brush Strokes In-Flight" in the center of the entrance atrium.

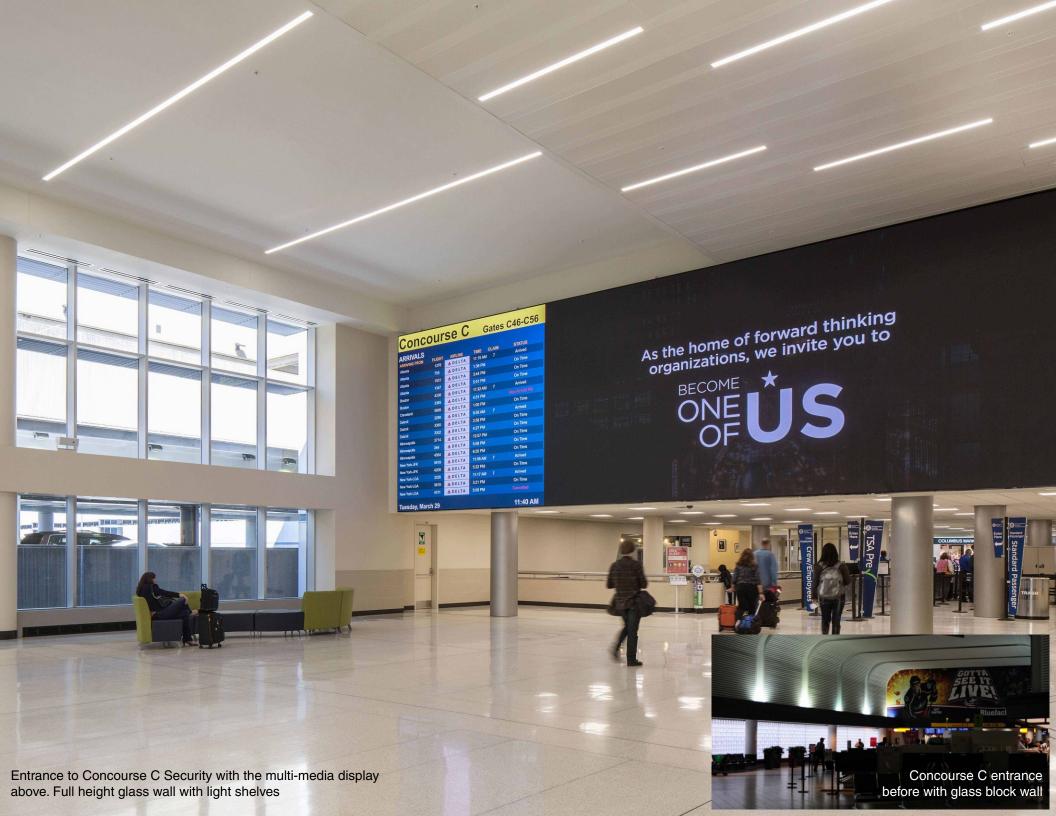
One of the greatest challenges in renovating an airport is that it can never close. The project encompassed complete demolition of the building interior to expose the original roof structure, columns and bare concrete floors all while the terminal remained completely occupied and operational. The use of innovative common use ticketing counters allowed airlines to move around the lobby for each phase. Each high-tech ticket counter allowed any airline to sign in and the back wall and overhead monitors automatically brought up the airlines branding and tied the computer into their respective reservation systems. The common use counters also bring long term value to the airport as it allows easier entry for startup airlines leading to greater competition and thus lower fares for the community.

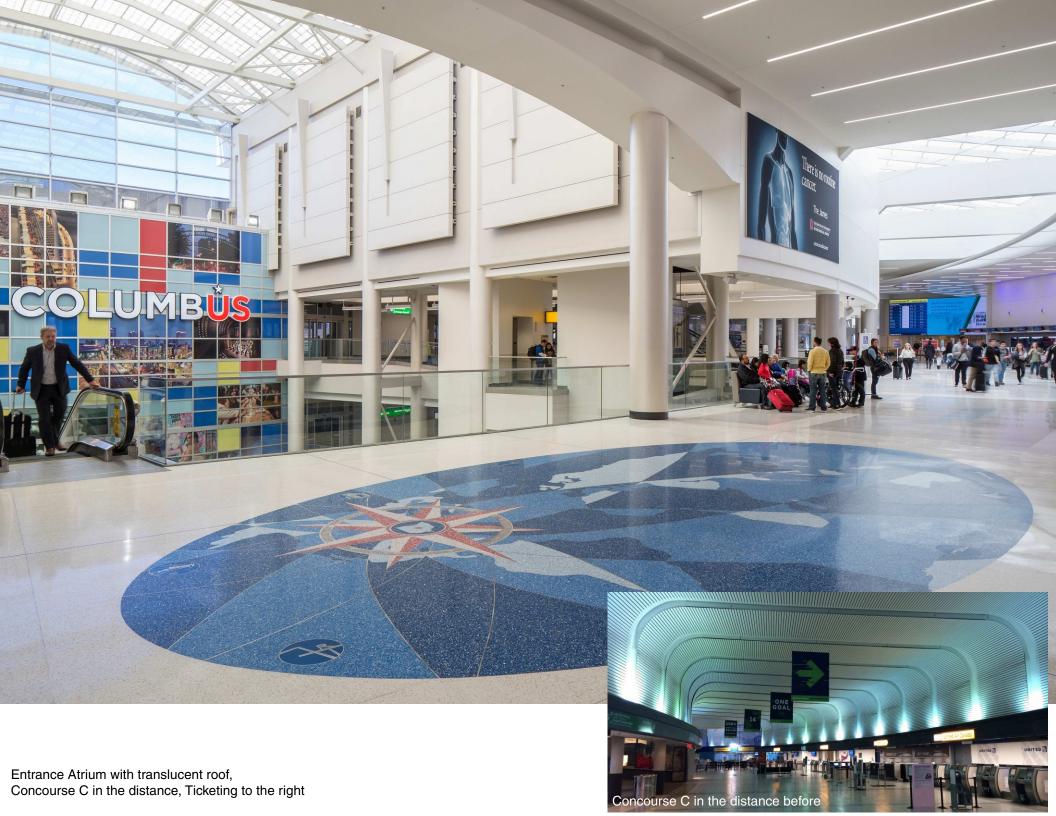
The project rejuvenates the airport environment and enlivens the passenger experience. An airport is the civic front door of a community, and this project strives to immerse the passengers in the Columbus brand. The content on the video walls highlights the amazing cultural resources located in the region and the atrium utilizes a 4 story modrian collage of famous vistas throughout the city. The Authorities brief was to project Columbus as tech savvy community, where innovation and business combine with great Midwestern sensibility; Clean and simple lines, bright open spaces, simple wayfinding and a calm atmosphere to counter the inevitable stresses of traveling.









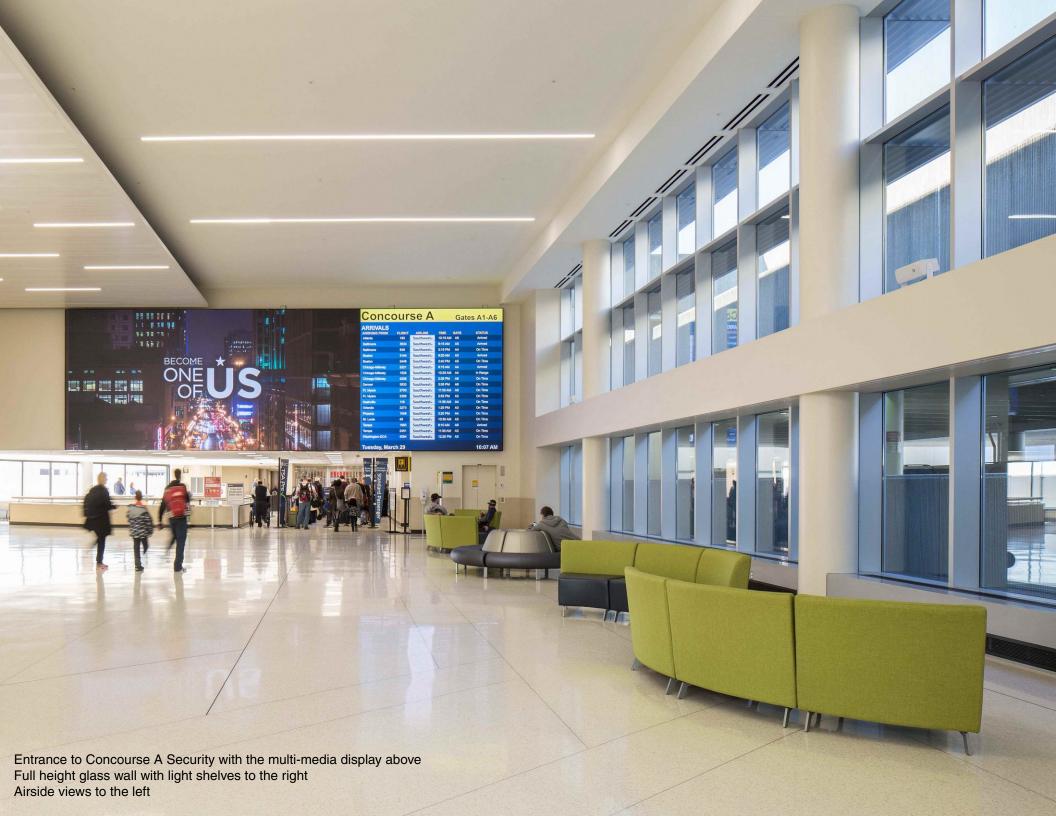


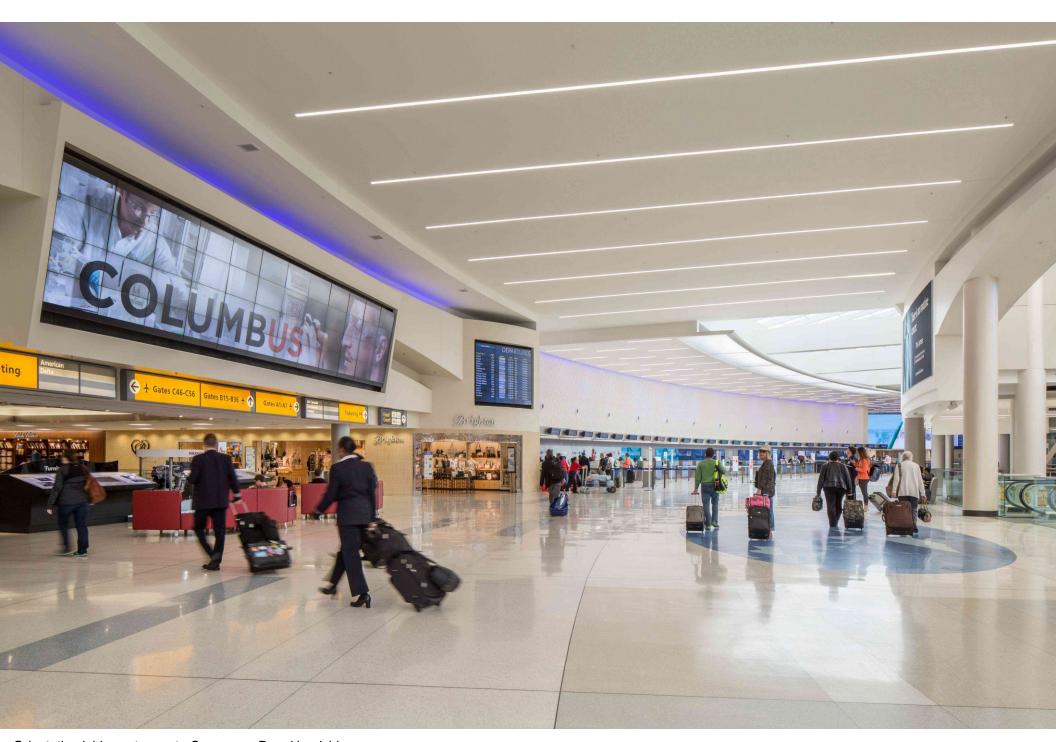




Ticket counters with common use ticket counter technology



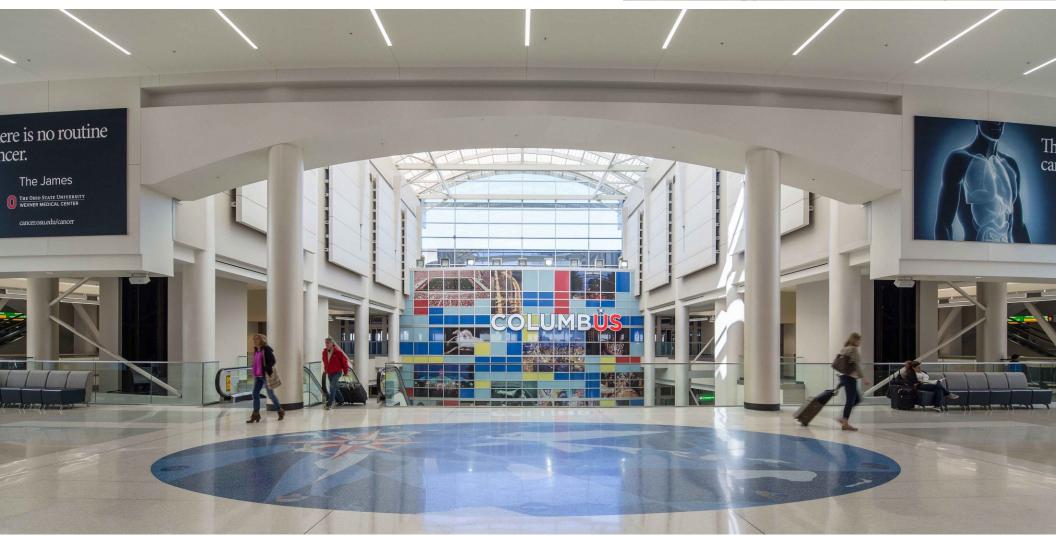




Orientation lobby, entrance to Concourse B and landside concessions avenue to the left. Entrance Atrium to the right.



Entrance Atrium, curbside ahead, tunnel to the garage and rental car center below





Art gallery off of the ticket lobby

Roy Lichtenstein's "Brush Strokes In-Flight" in the Entrance Atrium

Passenger lounge with history of the airport exhibits



