



Amtrak Superliner II

PROJECT TEAM: Cesar Vergara, Chief Designer, Amtrak (1990-2000)
Amtrak Rail Design Center, Blair Slaughter, John Cabry
Bombardier Engineering (Lapocatier, Canada)
Bombardier (Lapocatier Canada and Barre, Vermont)

CLIENT: Amtrak

COMPLETION DATE: 1992

AWARDS: Brunel commendation for interior fabrics

In 1991 Amtrak ordered a fleet of new bi-level long distance cars. These were to be based on the original Pullman Standard Superliner I, but with an updated interior and exterior graphics. The fleet was to be ADA compliant, meet new regulations and constitute an evolution of the Superliner I. Another important advance in the Superliner II was the introduction of interior materials and layouts. The superliner I fleet was rebuilt to the same design as the superliner II to create a consistent fleet.

Creating a coherent look within the great variety of car types was one of the program's greatest challenges, and accomplishments. This required careful planning and delicate mediation between different departments through design, to satisfy the large number of stake holders involved. It marked a new relationship between Amtrak and the car builders in the area of Industrial design, where Amtrak had a firmer hand in guiding the final appearance and character of the rolling stock.

The exterior graphics were redesigned and the livery is still used on the cars. The program's Industrial Design served its useful life and is no longer in existence. A further evolution with new design and interiors has been implemented by Amtrak.







