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Glynn County Airport Commission

NEW TERMINAL REFLECTS THE AREA'S RESORT QUALITY

For visitors and residents alike, Brunswick & The Golden Isles are beloved for their stunning landscapes and grand resort architecture. As the gateway for air travelers, the new terminal at Brunswick Golden Isles Airport is designed to highlight these assets and 'set the stage' for visitors by providing a relaxed, quality experience, from the time they arrive to their departure.

The building's stucco exterior, barrel tiled roof, porte cochere, trellises and other details reflect the Mediterranean influences of The Cloister, the King and Prince Beach and Golf Resort and other grand hotels and homes throughout the area. The effect is enhanced by the lush landscaping that extends from the new entrance to the terminal interior.

As they enter the terminal, visitors are greeted by a grand central corridor featuring a 30-foot barrel vaulted ceiling. The main hall is flanked by the ticketing area, baggage and passenger screening areas on one side, and by an outdoor courtyard, food service and baggage claim areas on the other. A second floor balcony leading to airport offices and meeting rooms overlooks the main hall.

The Mediterranean theme is carried through the interior, with the extensive use of ceramic tile floors and wainscoting, fountains and elaborate mosaics that recall area scenes. The color palette mirrors the rich hues and tones of the area's marshes, maritime forests and beaches. Furnishings and fabrics mimic those found in a fine home or hotel, scaled to match the grand space.

The impression is similar to entering the lobby of a grand, historic hotel. According to Martin Wander, AIA, the feeling is intentional.

“As we began planning for the new terminal, we met with a cross-section of people from the community, from the airport commission to the Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitors Bureau, leading businesses and local citizens,” said Wander, Vice President-Aviation for Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc., project architects and engineers. “We asked them how they see Brunswick & The Golden Isles, now and in the future. Almost every person spoke about the beauty of the area's landscape and the magnificent architecture to be found here, especially in the grand resorts and hotels. The resort quality of the area is seen as one of its biggest assets and its biggest draw.”

In addition to local interviews, Wander and Steve Brian, Executive Director of the Glynn County Airport Commission, visited similarly sized airports throughout the region, to get a feel for what works best in those facilities. “This led to the use of the grand, vaulted space in the terminal and Mediterranean flair of the design,” Wander explained. “We are not aware of any other terminal like this, especially in terms of its design aesthetics.”

Though it looks expensive, the project was completed with standard architectural materials and finishes in a way that was reasonably priced, Wander added. “People will

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see a lot of details throughout the facility that reflect the area's resort quality and subtropical beauty. Through extensive use of ceramic tiles, mosaics, local art and imagery, fountains, trellises and other touches, visitors will get a real sense that this is a very special place."

"Brunswick and the Golden Isles have a well earned reputation for relaxation and recreation in high-quality surroundings," said Glynn County Airport Commission Chairman Charles Rinkevich. "We wanted to create the feeling, especially for arriving passengers, that they have begun their vacation the moment they enter the terminal. I'm very proud of the new facility and believe that the community will share that pride."

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