



T2's soaring Slipstream

Brussels Airlines passengers are in for an extra-special treat when they fly in and out of London's Heathrow Airport later this year, because the newly rebuilt Terminal 2 is a proper work of art. Designed by Madrid-based architect Luis Vidal, the building features an undulating steel-frame roof that floods the space with natural light. The centrepiece is a soaring sculpture by British artist Richard Wilson, which pays homage to the world of aviation. Measuring 78 metres from one end to the other, Slipstream is one of the longest permanent public sculptures in Europe. Crafted from finished aluminium and weighing 77 tonnes, it traces the path of a stunt plane carving its way through the sky, and eloquently captures the thrill of flight. T2, named the Queen's Terminal, will handle 16 million passengers by the end of this year, and is set to become the London base of Brussels Airlines from 15 October (until then the airline will continue to fly into Terminal 1). Now, Slipstream will greet passengers as it arches across the Arrivals and Departures halls.

THE MURAL OF THE STORY

Artist Jessica Darch is well known across Spain's Costa del Sol for her marvellous murals. With work gracing many a poolside, rooftop terrace and elegant interior, she can usually be found halfway up some scaffolding, applying painterly detail to her tailor-made designs.

Working closely with clients to explore and reflect their personal styles, Darch creates flights of fancy to fit their living spaces. Having trained as an architect in London helps. "I never fail to be thrilled by the sheer scale of a blank wall," she says. "It lends itself to infinite possibilities."

Darch has created murals in the Bahamas, Germany, Italy and England as well as her native Spain. And when she's not painting walls, she can be found creating more portable pieces of art in her Estepona studio, near Malaga, where she welcomes visitors by appointment. jessicadarch.com



ILLUMINATING HISTORY

Poland is famed for embracing the bright lights of neon in its 1950s heyday, when artists explored the tube-and-gas medium with extraordinary gusto and vigour. For more than 20 years, neon was widely used to illuminate Polish shopfronts, cinemas and theatres, in colourful defiance of the prevailing grim Cold War culture.

Gradually the lights went out, though, and this iconic artform was in danger of being lost until enterprising photographer Ilona Karwinska decided to preserve its national history. Together with partner Dave Hill, Ilona set about chronicling Poland's surviving neon, and in 2005 they opened the Neon Muzeum in Warsaw, which now holds an extensive collection of signs created by the best architects and graphic designers of their day.

The Neon Muzeum, situated in the Soho factory building in Warsaw's arty Praga district, is open from Wednesday to Sunday. Special tours can be arranged by appointment. neonmuzeum.org

DAVID LEVEN, LHRA AIRPORTS LIMITED