known in the art. For example, see U.S. Patent No. 6,170,786 issued on January 9, 2001, U.S. Patent No. 7,419,214 issued on September 2, 2008, and U.S. Patent Publication No. 2009/0146004, published on June 11, 2009, the entireties of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

[0009] In accordance with a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an aircraft comprising a fuselage having an inner side wall, a celling and a floor, at least a first seat having an upper portion, wherein the first seat is secured to the floor, at least a first laterally overhead storage bin positioned generally above the upper portion of the first seat, and support structure secured to the floor and supporting the first overhead storage bin, wherein the first overhead storage bin has an open and a closed configuration, wherein the first overhead storage bin opens toward the front or rear of the aircraft, wherein the first overhead storage bin is not secured to the inner side wall or ceiling. ~~there is provided~~

[0009a] There is also disclosed an aircraft that includes at least a fuselage having an inner side wall and a floor, at least a first seat having an upper portion, at least a first laterally extending overhead storage bin positioned generally above the upper portion of the first seat, and support structure secured to the floor and supporting the first overhead storage bin. The first seat is secured to the floor and the first overhead storage bin has an open and a closed configuration (see FIG. 2). The first overhead storage bin opens toward the front or the rear of the aircraft. In a preferred embodiment, the aircraft also includes a second seat with an upper portion and that is secured to the floor and is adjacent the first seat. The aircraft also includes a second laterally extending overhead storage bin positioned generally above the upper portion of the second seat and adjacent the first overhead storage bin, and support structure secured to the floor and

supporting the second overhead storage bin. The second overhead storage bin has an open and a closed configuration and it opens toward the front or the rear of the aircraft. In a preferred embodiment, the first and second overhead storage bins are not secured to the inner side wall of the aircraft.

[0010] In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a lounge assembly configured to be positioned in the interior of an aircraft. The lounge assembly includes a first seat shell configured to at least partially surround a passenger seat, and an overhead storage bin assembly. The overhead storage bin assembly includes first and second posts configured to be secured to a floor of the aircraft, and an overhead bin housing supported by the first and second posts. The overhead bin housing includes at

includes first and second posts configured to be secured to a floor of the aircraft, and an overhead bin housing supported by the first and second posts. The overhead bin housing includes at least a first overhead storage bin. When the overhead storage bin assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the first overhead storage bin is positioned generally above a passenger seat.

[0014] In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of positioning overhead storage bins within an aircraft interior. The method includes providing a first group of seats and a first group of overhead storage bins, positioning the first group of seats within the aircraft interior such that each of the first group of seats face forwardly, and positioning the first group of overhead storage bins within the aircraft such that each of the first group of overhead storage bins is positioned above one of the first group of seats. The first group of overhead storage bins each face forwardly. ~~In a preferred embodiment, t~~The aircraft interior has a floor and an interior side wall, the first group of seats are each secured to the floor, and the first group of overhead storage bins are supported above the first group of seats by support structure and are not secured to the interior side wall or ceiling.

[0015] In a preferred embodiment, the method further includes providing a second group of seats and a second group of overhead storage bins, positioning the second group of seats within the aircraft interior such that each of the second group of seats face aft, and positioning the second group of overhead storage bins within the aircraft such that each of the second group of overhead storage bins is positioned above one of the second group of seats. The second group of overhead storage bins each face aft. Preferably, the aircraft interior has a floor and an interior side wall, the first group of seats and the second group of seats are each secured to the floor, the first group of overhead storage bins are supported above the first group of seats by support structure and are not secured to the interior side

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An aircraft comprising

a fuselage having an inner side wall and a floor,

at least a first seat having an upper portion, wherein the first seat is secured to the floor,

at least a first laterally extending overhead storage bin positioned generally above the upper portion of the first seat, and

support structure secured to the floor and supporting the first overhead storage bin,

wherein the first overhead storage bin has an open and a closed configuration, wherein the first overhead storage bin opens toward the front or the rear of the aircraft.

2. The aircraft of claim 1 further comprising

a second seat having an upper portion, wherein the second seat is secured to the floor and is adjacent the first seat,

a second laterally extending overhead storage bin positioned generally above the upper portion of the second seat and adjacent the first overhead storage bin, and

support structure secured to the floor and supporting the second overhead storage bin,

wherein the second overhead storage bin has an open and a closed configuration, wherein the second overhead storage bin opens toward the front or the rear of the aircraft.

3. The aircraft of claim 2 wherein the first and second overhead storage bins are not secured to the inner side wall.

4. A lounge assembly configured to be positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the lounge assembly comprising:

a first seat shell configured to at least partially surround a passenger seat, and

an overhead storage bin assembly that includes

first and second posts configured to be secured to a floor of the aircraft, and

an overhead bin housing supported by the first and second posts, wherein the overhead bin housing includes at least a first overhead storage bin that is positioned generally above the first seat shell.

5. The lounge assembly of claim 5 wherein the overhead bin housing includes a second overhead storage bin positioned on one side of the first overhead storage bin and a third overhead storage bin positioned on the opposite side of the first overhead storage bin, whereby when the lounge assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the first, second and third storage bins face forward.

6. The lounge assembly of claim 5 further comprising a second seat shell positioned on one side of the first seat shell and a third seat shell positioned on the opposite side of the seat shell bin, wherein the second overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the second seat shell and the third overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the third seat shell.

7. The lounge assembly of claim 6 wherein the overhead bin housing includes fourth, fifth and sixth overhead storage bin assemblies, whereby when the lounge assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the fourth, fifth and sixth storage bins face aft.

8. The lounge assembly of claim 7 further comprising fourth, fifth and sixth seat shells, wherein the fourth overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the fourth seat shell, the fifth overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the fifth seat shell, and the sixth overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the sixth seat shell.

9. The lounge assembly of claim 5 wherein the overhead bin housing includes first and second passenger service units, wherein the first passenger service unit is positioned between the first and second overhead storage bins and the second passenger service unit is positioned between the first and third overhead storage bins.

10. The lounge assembly of claim 9 wherein the passenger service units include at least one gasper, and wherein a passenger reading light is mounted on at least one of the first and second posts.

11. An overhead storage bin assembly configured to be positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the overhead storage bin assembly comprising:

first and second posts configured to be secured to a floor of the aircraft, and

an overhead bin housing supported by the first and second posts, wherein the overhead bin housing includes at least a first overhead storage bin, whereby when the overhead storage bin assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the first overhead storage bin is positioned generally above a passenger seat.

12. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim 11 wherein the overhead bin housing includes a second overhead storage bin positioned on one side of the first overhead storage bin and a third overhead storage bin positioned on the opposite side of the first overhead storage bin, whereby when the overhead storage bin assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the first, second and third storage bins face forward.

13. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim 12 wherein the overhead bin housing includes fourth, fifth and sixth overhead storage bin assemblies, whereby when the overhead storage bin assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the fourth, fifth and sixth storage bins face aft.

14. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim 12 wherein the overhead bin housing includes first and second passenger service units, wherein the first passenger service unit is positioned between the first and second overhead storage bins and the second passenger service unit is positioned between the first and third overhead storage bins.

15. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim 14 wherein the passenger service units include at least one gasper, and wherein a passenger reading light is mounted on at least one of the first and second posts.

16. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim 13 wherein the overhead bin housing includes first, second, third and fourth passenger service units, wherein the first passenger service unit is positioned between the first and second overhead storage bins, the second passenger service unit is positioned between the first and third overhead storage bins, the third passenger service unit is positioned between the fourth and fifth overhead storage

bins and the fourth passenger service unit is positioned between the fourth and sixth overhead storage bins.

17. A method of positioning overhead storage bins within an aircraft interior, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first group of seats and a first group of overhead storage bins,

positioning the first group of seats within the aircraft interior such that each of the first group of seats face forwardly, and

positioning the first group of overhead storage bins within the aircraft such that each of the first group of overhead storage bins is positioned above one of the first group of seats, wherein the first group of overhead storage bins each face forwardly.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the aircraft interior has a floor and an interior side wall and wherein the first group of seats are each secured to the floor, wherein the first group of overhead storage bins are supported above the first group of seats by support structure and are not secured to the interior side wall.

19. The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of

providing a second group of seats and a second group of overhead storage bins,

positioning the second group of seats within the aircraft interior such that each of the second group of seats face aft, and

positioning the second group of overhead storage bins within the aircraft such that each of the second group of overhead storage bins is positioned above one of the second group of seats, wherein the second group of overhead storage bins each face aft.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the aircraft interior has a floor and an interior side wall and wherein the first group of seats and the second group of seats are each secured to the floor, wherein the first group of overhead storage bins are supported above the first group of seats by support structure and are not secured to the interior side wall and the second group of overhead storage bins are supported above the second group of seats by support structure and are not secured to the interior side wall.

~~AMENDED CLAIMS~~
~~received by the International Bureau on 21 August 2012 (21.08.2012).~~

1. An aircraft comprising

a fuselage having an inner side wall, a ceiling and a floor,

at least a first seat having an upper portion, wherein the first seat is secured to the floor,

at least a first laterally extending overhead storage bin positioned generally above the upper portion of the first seat, and

support structure secured to the floor and supporting the first overhead storage bin,

wherein the first overhead storage bin has an open and a closed configuration, wherein the first overhead storage bin opens toward the front or the rear of the aircraft, wherein the first overhead storage bin is not secured to the inner side wall or ceiling.

2. The aircraft of claim 1 further comprising

a second seat having an upper portion, wherein the second seat is secured to the floor and is adjacent the first seat,

a second laterally extending overhead storage bin positioned generally above the upper portion of the second seat and adjacent the first overhead storage bin, and

support structure secured to the floor and supporting the second overhead storage bin,

wherein the second overhead storage bin has an open and a closed configuration, wherein the second overhead storage bin opens toward the front or the rear of the aircraft, wherein the second overhead storage bin is not secured to the inner side wall or ceiling.

~~3. Canceled.~~

34. A lounge assembly configured to be positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the lounge assembly comprising:

a first seat shell configured to at least partially surround a passenger seat, and

an overhead storage bin assembly that includes

first and second posts configured to be secured to a floor of the aircraft, and

an overhead bin housing supported by the first and second posts, wherein the overhead bin housing includes at least a first overhead storage bin that is positioned generally above the first seat shell.

45. The lounge assembly of claim 43 wherein the overhead bin housing includes a second overhead storage bin positioned on one side of the first overhead storage bin and a third overhead storage bin positioned on the opposite side of the first overhead storage bin, whereby when the lounge assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the first, second and third storage bins face forward.

56. The lounge assembly of claim 54 further comprising second seat shell positioned on one side of the first seat shell and a third seat shell positioned on the opposite side of the seat shell bin, wherein the second overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the second seat shell and the third overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the third seat shell.

67. The lounge assembly of claim 65 wherein the overhead bin housing includes fourth, fifth and sixth overhead storage bin assemblies, whereby when the lounge assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the fourth, fifth and sixth storage bins face aft.

78. The lounge assembly of claim 76 further comprising fourth, fifth and sixth seat shells, wherein the fourth overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the fourth seat shell, the fifth overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the fifth seat shell, and the sixth overhead storage bin is positioned generally above the sixth seat shell.

89. The lounge assembly of claim 54 wherein the overhead bin housing includes first and second passenger service units, wherein the first passenger service unit is positioned between the first and second overhead storage bins and the second passenger service unit is positioned between the first and third overhead storage bins.

9~~10~~. The lounge assembly of claim ~~9~~8 wherein the passenger services units include at least one gasper, and wherein a passenger reading light is mounted on at least one of the first and second posts.

10~~11~~. An overhead storage bin assembly configured to be positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the overhead storage bin assembly comprising:

first and second posts configured to be secured to a floor of the aircraft, and

an overhead bin housing supported by the first and second posts, wherein the overhead bin housing includes at least a first overhead storage bin, whereby when the overhead storage bin assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the first overhead storage bin is positioned generally above a passenger seat.

11~~12~~. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim ~~1~~10 wherein the overhead bin housing includes a second overhead storage bin positioned on one side of the first overhead storage bin and a third overhead storage bin positioned on the opposite side of the first overhead storage bin, whereby when the overhead storage bin assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the first, second and third storage bins face forward.

12~~13~~. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim ~~1~~211 wherein the overhead bin housing includes fourth, fifth and sixth overhead storage bin assemblies, whereby when the overhead storage bin assembly is positioned in the interior of an aircraft, the fourth, fifth and sixth storage bins face aft.

13~~14~~. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim ~~1~~211 wherein the overhead bin housing includes first and second passenger service units, wherein the first passenger service unit is positioned between the first and second overhead storage bins and the second passenger service unit is positioned between the first and third overhead storage bins.

14~~15~~. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim ~~1~~413 wherein the passenger service units include at least one gasper, and wherein a passenger reading light is mounted on at least one of the first and second posts.

15~~16~~. The overhead storage bin assembly of claim ~~1~~312 wherein the overhead bin housing includes first, second, third and fourth passenger service units, wherein the first

passenger service unit is positioned between the first and second overhead storage bins, the second passenger service unit is positioned between the first and third overhead storage bins, the third passenger service unit is positioned between the fourth and fifth overhead storage bins and the fourth passenger service unit is positioned between the fourth and sixth overhead storage bins.

16~~17~~. A method of positioning overhead storage bins within an aircraft interior, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first group of seats and a first group of overhead storage bins,

positioning the first group of seats within the aircraft interior such that each of the first group of seats face forwardly, and

positioning the first group of overhead storage bins within the aircraft such that each of the first group of overhead storage bins is positioned above one of the first group of seats, wherein the first group of overhead storage bins each face forwardly, wherein the aircraft interior has a floor, an interior side wall and a ceiling and wherein the first group of seats are each secured to the floor, wherein the first group of overhead storage bins are supported above the first group of seats by support structure and are not secured to the interior side wall or ceiling.

~~18. Canceled.~~

17~~19~~. The method of claim ~~17~~16 further comprising the step of

providing a second group of seats and a second group of overhead storage bins,

positioning the second group of seats within the aircraft interior such that each of the second group of seats face aft, and

positioning the second group of overhead storage bins within the aircraft such that each of the second group of overhead storage bins is positioned above one of the second group of seats, wherein the second group of overhead storage bins each face aft, wherein the second group of seats are each secured to the floor, wherein the second group of overhead storage bins are supported above the second group of seats by support structure and are not secured to the interior side wall or ceiling.

~~20. Canceled.~~