

Guest column: PTP explores how innovative tableware is transforming inflight dining

This is a special feature from the [November 2025 Middle East, Asia & Africa digital issue](#) of *PAX International*, on [page 40](#).



Bold colors and standout designs bring personality and creativity to the inflight dining experience

Tableware is going through an interesting time. What was once merely a vessel to serve food is becoming an artistic expression—an extension of brand personality, a statement of creative intent. Airlines are uniquely placed to tap into this fabulous new world—taking inspiration from local landscapes, cultural heritage and other reassuring home comforts.

In overall tableware terms, there is currently an emphasis on bold colours, statement pieces and unique designs which transform the dining experience into a personality-led creative canvas. Bold and vibrant colours can create playful and imaginative table settings. Artistic shapes and designs are gaining popularity and are being used hand-in-hand with menu development to shape and frame food.

At Plane Talking Products ([PTP](#)) we see the shift away from an airline providing a traditional “three meals a day” type service. We are working on creating tableware that can accommodate the desire for “casual dining.” Multifunctional pieces are essential to provide the ultimate flexibility in service.



Alison Wells, Owner and CEO, Plane Talking Products

Our latest ceramic ranges incorporate pieces that can be swapped in and out as the service changes. Signature services are also a key driver in the development of airline tableware—and this is where we can incorporate “hero” products and pieces that connect the passenger to the airline and its creative brand expression.

There is still a place for classic smooth, white tableware with a minimal aesthetic, and we see that continuing onboard, but in conjunction with the latest innovations and trends to create a memorable and eye-catching dining experience.

Textured finishes are ubiquitous in retail and restaurant environments but can be difficult to make work in the rigors of an airline kitchen and operation. Our team of ceramicists is constantly working on new glazes and finishes that meet this aesthetic while also proving to be durable and hard-wearing.

All in all, it is an exciting time to be working in tableware. At PTP, we are enjoying the creative freedom that the latest innovations in color, shape, texture and finish can bring to the development of a well curated, multi-functional tableware set. Bringing the artistic together with technical and operational expertise is a challenge but one worth taking on, to create the ultimate dining experience. After all, inflight dining is more than just a meal—it is a moment.