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**Better baggage handling
by British Airways**

British Airways now has an expanded and upgraded baggage back operations space - technically known as a baggage make-up room - at John F. Kennedy International Airport's Terminal Seven.

Aragon Construction, New York City's premiere general contracting and construction management firm, together with architectural firm Graf & Lewent Architects, LLP, served as the construction manager on the project and began working on the 30,000-square-foot renovation in March. The construction was completed in mid-July. Graf & Lewent's design team included Sideris Engineers and conveyer consultants, BNP Associates, Inc.

"As airline traffic has finally returned to pre 9/11 frequency, airlines are grappling with the issues of sustaining the additional passengers and the necessary baggage screening equipment needed to handle this increased capacity," explains Howard Graf, Principal of Graf & Lewent, noting that British Airways is at the forefront of the airline industry in resolving these concerns.

To that end, British Airways needed a solution that would increase both the amount of baggage it could handle and screening capacity. Specifically, the task included adding more linear feet to the baggage carousel, or make-up device, and reconfiguring the space to handle two additional 9,000-pound CTX scanning machines - when the make-up room could not be expanded.