

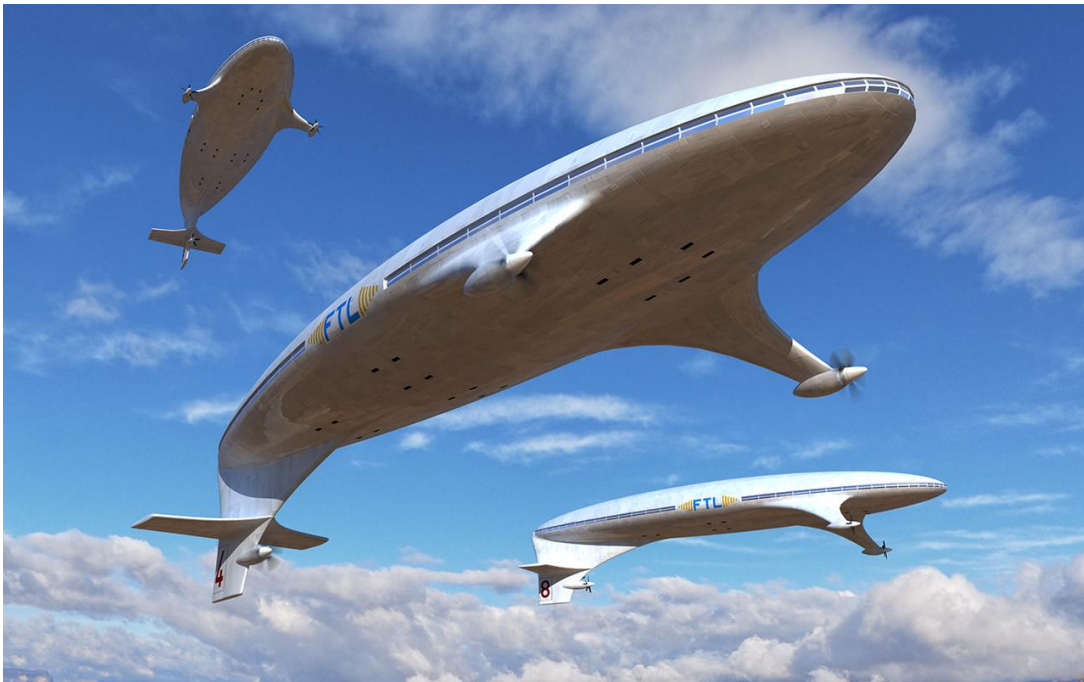
Mario Merino - touring airship

Peter Lobner, 8 February 2022

Mario Merino is an artist, animator and 3D modeler based in the City of Allen, in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, with a gallery of intriguing renderings posted on the Artstation website at the following link: <https://merinomgm123.artstation.com>.

Merino described his creative process as, "I usually don't sketch my ideas on paper first, instead I just jump straight into my 3D modeling program and see what happens, playing with shapes to make something that looks 'right'."

Among his many 3D modeling projects is the elegant rigid touring airship design concept shown in the following graphic, which was modeled and rendered on a PC with Lightwave 3D software. Merino created this graphic in April 2010 and referred to it as, "My vision for a futuristic quiet touring airship of the future.... I envisioned it as an electric powered machine, somehow influenced by the work of futurist Syd Mead." The touring airship would carry 50 to 70 passengers.



Mario Merino's touring airship concept, shown flying in a formation that resembles a pod of graceful whales

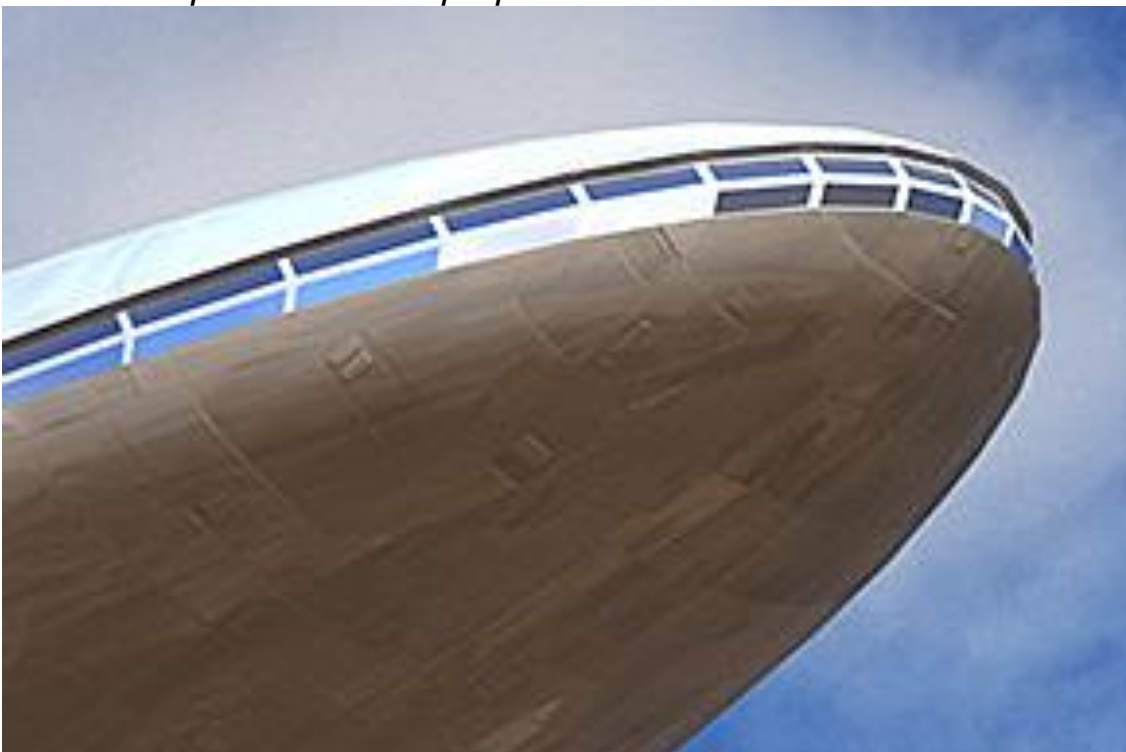
Source: <https://merinomgm123.artstation.com>



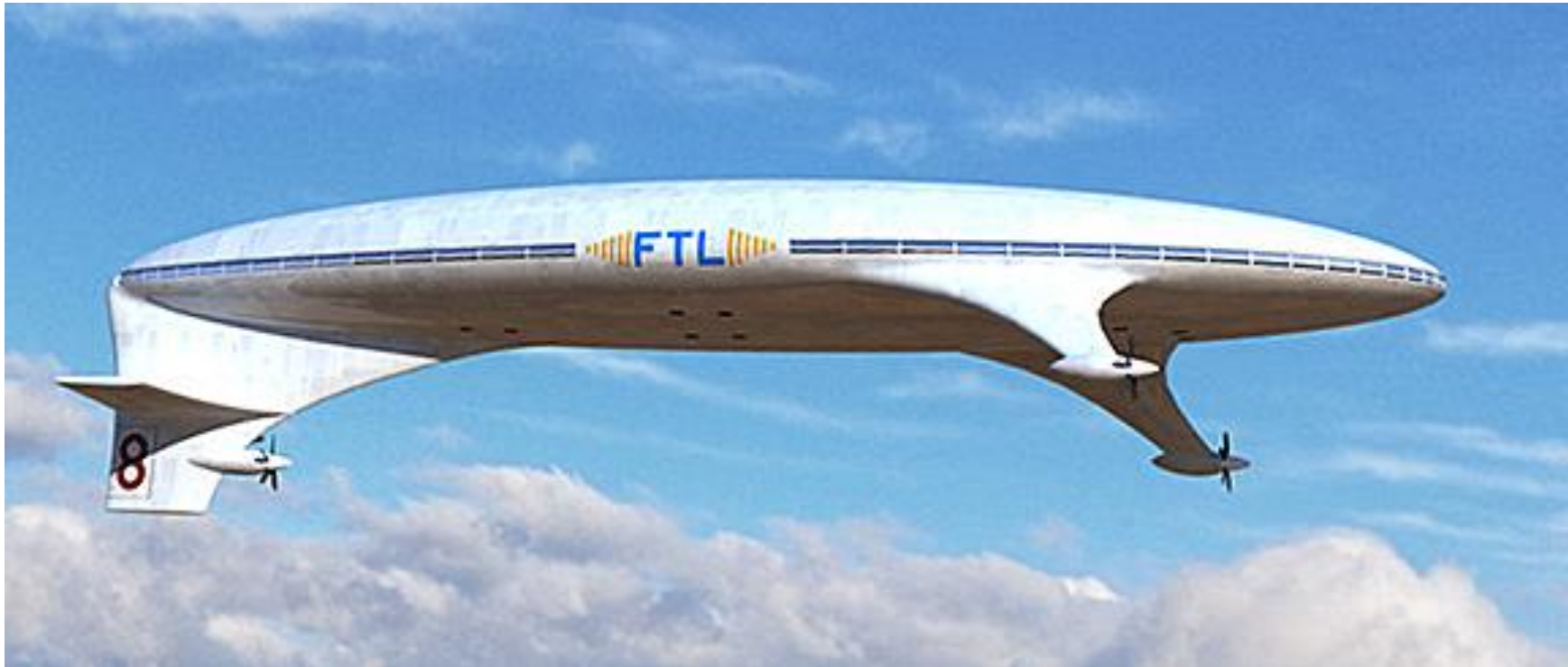
The two forward wings each carry a large podded tractor propeller.



A third podded tractor propeller is mounted on the ventral tail.



Panoramic views are available along the band of large windows on the observation deck. Source: Blowups from the original graphic at <https://merinomgm123.artstation.com>



Profile view of Mario Merino's touring airship concept showing the strip of windows on the observation deck extending the entire length of the ship, permitting passengers to walk around freely to see the landscape below in any direction. A three-point landing gear could be installed in the wing engine pods and in the tail fin. Source: Blowup from the original graphic at <https://merinomgm123.artstation.com>

Merino also created a variant of his original graphic with the following stern quarter view of the touring airship.



Source: ArtPal.com

For more information

- “Skyships,” (Merino’s graphic available for sale online), ArtPals: https://www.artpal.com/?s=mario%20merino&f_ss=1&i=30834-11

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