Flying captures — and holds — the imagination of people young and old like few other concepts. It has for centuries, long before anyone successfully lifted off the ground. From Greek mythology to Leonardo da Vinci to Howard Hughes, the idea of flight fascinates and propels us.

The innovations of a century of commercial airports are a testament to the hold it has over business executives, engineers and the traveling public alike. We want to fly better, faster, farther and higher.

The 2011 Aviation Special Report pays tribute to the spirit of invention that has made the commercial aviation industry grow and change over the past 100 years — and will drive it onward into the next.

Burns & McDonnell will be right there with you.