

Let me entertain you

Whether throwing a spectacular party or hosting a getaway, the key to success lies in the design details, says *Risa Merl*



Raise the bar

KITTED OUT

A superyacht bar should be as practical as it is beautiful. "Our favourite bar set at the moment is the Robbe & Berking Martelé," says Elizabeth Caddick of Glancy Fawcett. The Martelé bar collection (*left*) is available in silver, silver plate or stainless steel. Need extra space? The Martelé bar trunk can transform any corner of the boat into a stylish, vintage pop-up bar.

For storing drinks, glasses and flatware, Glyn Peter Machin has created the Serengeti drinks cabinet, with hand-painted doors trimmed in 24kt gold, wenge and custom glass.



GLASS ACT

"Stock the same crystal across all bars on board so that when you host a party people on different decks have the same glasses," advises Caddick. "Champagne flutes in a selection of colours are always fun."

Moser's new collection, A Tale of Colours (*above*), speaks to the trend towards colourful crystal. "By using different kinds of decoration such as cuttings, coloured glass gets a very special optic effect," says Lukas Jaburek, the company's art director. Moser can design handmade, limited collections of glassware for yachts.

Glassware should complement the taste of the drinks, too. Puiforcat's sterling silver champagne tumblers are designed to enhance the sparkling effect of champagne. "The metallic tumbler accentuates the chilled nature and provides a different way to taste champagne and sparkling wines," says Puiforcat's Amelie de Cagny.

Saloon style

THE CENTRE OF REFINEMENT

"When everyone stops swimming and sunning, the main saloon becomes the centre of life," says art dealer Adrian Sassoon. "Everything should be a degree finer – the place where you can begin to introduce more formal art pieces."

Sassoon recommends the Dual Rivulet Bowl (*below*) by famed Japan silversmith Hiroshi Suzuki, who masterfully employs the traditional technique of hand-raising sheets of metal to create beautiful vessels. Collected by admirers of antiques and contemporary art alike, the bowl makes a powerful centrepiece for a saloon coffee table or credenza.



A place at the table

MATCHY, MATCHY

Co-ordinating tableware and linens in a cohesive theme – or to complement the yacht's décor – will bring a table to life. "For breakfast, we recommend 100 per cent pure linen," says Ruth Douglas, of Heirlooms, "with coloured borders, piping or embroidery to reflect the tableware design, which adds elegance and vibrancy to al fresco dining." Heirlooms' Garden Rosa collection (*above*) delivers a vivid combination of turquoise, pale blue, and gold trim.



TEA TIME

End the meal on the right note. "A carafe or teapot are essential," says Vanessa Sitbon, of Haviland. Comprising two tea cups, a teapot and a tray, the Japanese inspired Cérémonie du Thé set (*left*) is a masterpiece of porcelain craftsmanship.



PRIDE OF PLACE

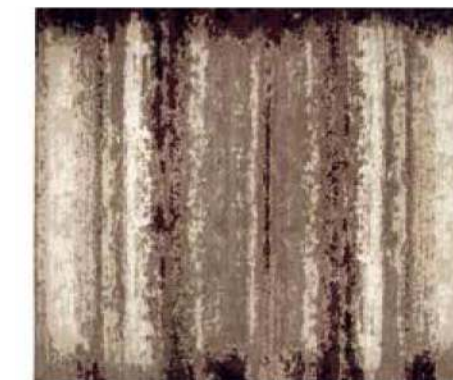
Your favourite artwork will set the theme for the main saloon and draw the eye. "The central, core theme of any artwork on board would be on the focal wall in the saloon, and this should be a special piece, one that the owner would take with them one day when they leave the yacht," says Sassoon. One of his favourites (*left*) is *Leopold and Rudolf Blaschka, Octopus vulgaris, 2013* (© Guido Mocafo, courtesy Hamiltons Gallery, London).

Steve Keeling, director of DKT Artworks, points out that there isn't always wall space to mount art. "This is leading us to put some thought into 'flattened', free-standing, plinth-mounted artworks, which are transparent or translucent so as not to block the light," he says.

CREATURE COMFORTS

Polly Sturgess of RWD suggests comfortable and luxurious sofas to make guests feel at home. The rustic Cornwall sofa collection from Finkeldei boasts deep seats and back cushions for extra comfort. Finkeldei also specialises in creating custom furnishings for new build yachts.

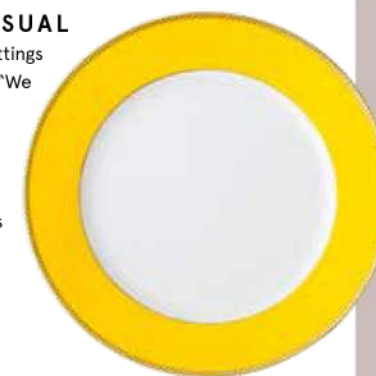
The saloon is a high-traffic area when entertaining, so select a rug that's as resilient as it is good looking. The hand-tufted rugs from ICE Rugs' IMO-certified superyacht collection (*below*) are made from high-quality wool that is strong, shiny and dirt repellent. The Domenico has a pattern that makes any stains or spills less obvious – perfect for a party.



FORMAL TO CASUAL

Have a range of table settings ready for any occasion. "We usually specify between three and five crockery ranges, from formal to casual," says Sturgess. "Also, something for kids or plastic glasses for the hot tub." Mixing and matching keeps your table looking fresh each time. Haviland offers a mix-and-match set, Infini Arc en Ciel, which updates its famed Infini collection in four bright, modern colours hand-applied on Limoges porcelain.

"For a high-end looking table, silver cutlery is a must but for daily use choose an interesting stainless," says de Cagny of Puiforcat. "Despite popular belief, sterling silver or plated silver can be put in the dishwasher, using a basic powder detergent that isn't too harsh." Vintage silverware, however, should be treated with extra TLC as the cement used in vintage knives can melt in hot water. For an elegant table, select Puiforcat's art deco-patterned Cannes silverware. In plated silver, the Normandie set was designed in the late 1920s by Jean Puiforcat and used on the famous French liner *Normandie*.



Bed down

PICK YOUR PILLOW

"Consider a pillow menu for your guests to suit different tastes," says Thomas Batty, of Glancy Fawcett. "Pillows that offer different support levels are good to accommodate a range of guests. You can get ones that have different fillings on each side or that come with extra filling for the crew to self-stuff. A hollowfibre option is also worth having for guests with allergies." A mitre on the reverse of a pillowcase corner is considered a sign of good quality.



MATERIAL MATTERS

Designers and linen providers will work with owners to match linens to what you have at home – or at your favourite hotel – and have them custom made to fit each bed on board. "Don't always take thread count at face value," says Batty. "You can still have lower quality fibres made into high thread counts by twisting two together. Egyptian cotton is used to advertise many items, but most aren't true Egyptian cotton. Look out for 'ELS', which stands for extra-long staple cotton: this is a true sign of quality where good raw materials are being used."

"There are new materials for mattress protectors and bedding that can regulate the temperature of the body when sleeping," says Douglas, from Heirlooms. "For sailing yachts, we tend to recommend Tencel wood fibre for the duvets and pillows as these have good moisture management properties. For motor yachts, white goose down at a medium tog weighting still tends to be the most popular choice."

Outdoor entertaining

MADE IN THE SHADE

"Outdoor living and entertaining is usually high on a yacht's list of priorities, therefore awnings and umbrellas are essential in all outdoor areas to help protect from the sun, but also from night humidity and light rain," says designer Cristiano Gatto. The Tuuci Ocean Master Classic umbrella (right) is manufactured to marine specifications and built to withstand harsh conditions.

A nice touch is to provide a leather stand that holds multiple pairs of sunglasses – either in the beach club or a waterproof version on the sundeck. Glancy Fawcett stocks the Pinetti sunglasses rack.



PRACTICAL MATERIALS

"Outdoor furniture is subject to strong wind and salty air, so don't use the same materials you'd use for a garden and choose something that's weather resistant and agreeable to touch," says Gatto. Glancy Fawcett recommends

towel-covered cushions:

Abyss & Habidecor's Portofino cushions (left) come with matching exterior towels, made from terrycloth, and can include a waterproof layer for beach use.



FLEXIBLE FURNISHINGS

"We're being increasingly asked for flexibility of furniture, so rather than fitting a dining table to a deck, we are being asked for something that can be reduced in size, moved away for a party or movie night," says Polly Sturgess of RWD. Foldable lounge chairs, such as Summit's SD345 stacking adjustable chaise created by yacht designer John Munford (left), are ideal.



Lights, music, action

DIM IS IN

"Lighting is extremely important when entertaining," says Sturgess. "You want it to be soft, gentle and as atmospheric as possible. If you walk into a room with great lighting, you'll want to stick around." Choose a lighting system with dimmable lights so interior and exterior spaces can transform easily from relaxation to party.

MOVIE NIGHT

Superyacht cinemas are more popular than ever and are the perfect way to entertain guests of all ages. According to Videoworks, the ISA yacht *Okto* shines due to her upper deck cinema, while CRN's *Cloud 9* has an outdoor screen on the owner's deck.

SOUND CHECK

When designing sound for superyacht entertaining, "the purpose of the area is key," says Maurizio Minossi, Videoworks' technical director. Sound must be carefully planned, he says, so it doesn't affect other areas on board and one space can blend seamlessly into the other.

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A refresher course

A design makeover will revitalise your yacht and boost its charter appeal, says *Kate Lardy*

A yacht functions like an ecosystem, says interior designer Francesca Muzio: touching some aspects can compromise others, affecting comfort on board. “That is why we suggest approaching a refit in a cosmetic way,” says the head of FM Architettura d’Interni. Her firm’s philosophy is to reinterpret a yacht’s style without intervening too much in the existing structure. This also means a fast turnaround for owners who want their yachts ready for the next season.

With 2017 being a record year for brokerage sales, the refit market is correspondingly strong as buyers snap up boats, many of which need a design refresh to reflect today’s tastes. “I’ve got something on my desk at the moment which is a very traditional, American-style interior, with dark woods and raised-and-fielded panelling,” says Jonny Horsfield of H2 Yacht Design in London. “It’s quite heavy and classic, and not what people want so much any more. The demand is for a lighter,



and more Mediterranean feel. The palette is much more neutral now with a little splash of colour.”

Painting or staining the existing wood panelling “completely changes the feel of the yacht”, adds Horsfield. Another trick is to cover it with leather. Other easy fixes, he says, include re-upholstering wall panels, replacing carpets and loose furniture, changing light fixtures and door hardware and adding new artwork. Horsfield recommends not swapping out the marble if possible, which he describes as a slow, messy process and it is “by far the most expensive item to change”. Another item he recommends to avoid is the ceiling – the cost doesn’t justify the limited difference it makes.

Ceilings were pretty much the only area he left untouched during the interior refit of 55 metre *Turquoise* three years ago. The new owner intended to keep her on the charter market, but first she needed a new look on a tight budget. “It hadn’t been chartering well; it looked drab in photos,” says Horsfield, who gave her a lighter but richer finish, using a bit of gloss and varnish played against beige leathers and stitching. “It is much >



The interior of 63m *Lürssen Polar Star* (before, above; after, top) was redesigned by FM Architettura d’Interni



DKT Artworks created the églomisé panels for Studio Indigo on the 70m Feadship Joy

more residential in feel, luxurious without offending anyone.”

For yachts being decorated for their owner’s sole use, Muzio points out that it’s no longer about being a slave to a particular style. “Today, the first conversation [with my clients] is about what they love to do on board, the experience that they want to have, the places they want to cruise.” She then creates something that reflects the owner’s lifestyle, not a design style.

Muzio says that without moving bulkheads or dismantling built-in furniture when possible, her company can transform a space. An example? The 63 metre *Polar Star*, a 2005 launch whose interiors emulated a French country house: she removed the classical details, covered wallpaper and used leather to mask walls and built-in furniture, giving the motor yacht a clean, modern look.

“Our cosmetic approach relies on a keen eye for rich and

tactile materials, often handcrafted,” says Muzio. “It is a strategy we have perfected working with local craftsmen in our region of Le Marche in Italy. It allows us to modernise the style of a boat while giving it the character and comfort the owner desires.” Muzio recommends using bespoke pieces as much as possible. “A few years ago, people were attracted by brand names; today they want designs made specifically for them,” she says, and her firm fabricates these, working with a team of artisans.

Another company that loves to create is DKT Artworks in London, which specialises in bespoke artworks and decorative finishes, such as hand-painted and stucco finishes, and handcrafted murals – its artists often use fabric swatches from the designer as inspiration. They work with a lot of new-build projects, but co-founder and director Steve Keeling says that the pieces can be retrofitted. “Bedheads and feature walls can easily be done as long as what’s there already is in good shape and stable, and the structure behind can take the weight.”

In the end, the goal is to create something that feels like home. “A yacht is a place that is truly you,” says Muzio. “Surround yourself with things that are specific to you.” ■

6 PIECES THAT WILL UPDATE YOUR YACHT

Glass is the medium for Parisian atelier Bernard Pictet, which crafted these chiselled and silvered curved glass partitions for 50m *Satori*, developed in collaboration with designer Rémi Tessier.



These unique verre églomisé gilded sliding doors, by DKT Artworks in collaboration with Reymond Langton, take advantage of light that shines through the adjacent room. The hand-painted trees on each side give a shadow effect, and metallic gauze in between brings a sense of depth.



Don’t forget the decks. Summit Endurance Fabric, ranging from vivid patterns to textured neutrals, can revitalise their look with new cushion covers or throw pillows. Made of 100 per cent solution-dyed acrylic, it is ideal for the outdoors.



The silversmith house Puiforcat, famous for its tableware, ventures from the dining room to the onboard office with the Bureau d’Architecte collection, crafted in brass and plated in silver and gold. Designed by Joseph Dirand, it stays the course set by Jean Puiforcat at the height of the art deco era.



Creating bespoke artworks for superyachting’s top designers, Helen Amy Murray’s London studio hand sculpts textiles into three-dimensional decorative surfaces, such as this Bloom design sculpted in Majilite for the dining room of 88m *Quattroelle*.



Glyn Peter Machin’s latest collection of bespoke exterior furniture for superyachts draws inspiration from Japanese pagoda structures and koi imagery. The Nishikigoi marquetry series merges a solid teak frame and intricate artwork that is designed exclusively for each client.

