

Exploring the Design & Innovation Hub at Monaco Yacht Show 2023

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SYT takes a look at everything you may have missed from this year's Design & Innovation Hub at the Monaco Yacht Show 2023.

The Design & Innovation Hub at this year's Monaco Yacht show provided visitors with engaging discussions and presentations with designers and industry experts. As well as a busy agenda of roundtable discussions in partnership with SuperYacht Times, the Design & Innovation Hub also provided conversations with forward-thinking designers and influential trend-setters who have helped to shape the landscape of superyacht design.

De Basto Designs- Experience Project MED: Where innovations meets Mediterranean magic

Designer Luiz de Basto unveiled the renderings for a new 92-metre superyacht concept, Project MED. The new concept focused heavily on open space and features a reflective glass superstructure that mirrors her surroundings.

Project MED takes inspiration from the power of open space and celebrates the Mediterranean lifestyle and free-spirited thinkers. At the heart of the 2,300 GT concept is the open main deck called Agora, named after the public square and centre of life in Ancient Greece.

"One of the greatest gifts of the Mediterranean civilization to the modern world is the ethos for outdoor living and alfresco dining, known to contribute to well-being. This MED concept aims to deliver experiences and offer infinite flexibility," explained Luiz de Basto.

Project MED features naval architecture by Lateral Naval Architects, which were responsible for designing a structural lattice system that allows the superstructure to have a minimum footprint and rest on her four supports.

The main deck of Project MED is characterised by her open social area, reminiscent of a busy town square. The inviting space allows for guests to congregate and engage with each other and the surrounding nature, creating a closer connection between her and the sea.

The Agora deck of Project MED is a multipurpose, flexible space, partially open to the open air. Her glass staircase allows for uninterrupted views, and acts as a visual anchor.

The open approach also allows the design to outlive trends and fashions of the moment and to change during the yacht's life, just like the entire vessel herself.

Below the Agora deck are two decks of private spaces with an open layout configuration. In the superstructure, which appears suspended above the Agora open deck, there are two additional decks of open public spaces.

In terms of accommodation, Project MED can comfortably accommodate up to 14 guests, with an owner's deck situated on the upper deck. Her remaining staterooms include four guest suites and two VIP suites.

A key defining feature of Project MED is her reflective glass superstructure, polished like a pebble stone, which mirrors her surroundings. As well as this, the hull's openings and windows are covered in serigraphy that matches the hull colour so they are virtually invisible from the outside.

"I wanted to strip the profile of everything superfluous, leaving just the right number of elements to convey the concept," said Luiz de Basto. "The flying superstructure volume touches the hull delicately, dissolving the Main Deck into a void space and leaving the Agora Deck open."

However attractive the final appearance is, it isn't set in stone. "We are not interested in proposing an innovative profile only; we can make the design more conservative or modern, according to the owner's preference."

Project MED is buildable today and will feature an electric-hybrid propulsion system, allowing her to cruise with fewer noise and pollution. She will be able to reach a top speed of 16.5 knots, with a cruising speed of 14 knots.

"We designed this project for people who are curious about life, people who are courageous and want to build their own space. For them, we have re-thought what it means to live onboard instead of designing another conventional yacht and making it work."

Siemens Energy- Roadmap to sustainable yachting and reforming a sustainable energy solution

During a series of talks at the Design & Innovation Hub, Siemens Energy discussed what sustainability means for the company. The informative discussions explored

High-Temperature Methanol (HT) fuel cell technology and how the fuel cells convert chemical energy from a fuel, such as hydrogen, into electric energy through a reaction with oxygen.

Siemens Energy explained the advantages of methanol for hydrogen storage and how it has four times more energy than 700 bar tanks. As well as this, they discussed how the existing infrastructure for gasoline can be used, with methanol saving in space, refuelling time, bunkering costs and energy.

Siemens Energy explored how Marine Fuel Cell units work to reduce emissions compared to a diesel genset, and took a technical approach in explaining the main technical data of a 100 kW unit. Siemens Energy explained how, working in partnership, we can optimise efficiency, whilst also reducing emissions and noise.

"Together, we can shape a greener and more sustainable future for our oceans," concluded Siemens Energy.

Hydro Tec- Unchartered Design Visions: Setting the course for the new generation of explorer yachts and charting a new design vision: Your Island in the Mediterranean

Italy-based designers Hydro Tec unveiled the renderings of a new 55-metre catamaran yacht concept during the Monaco Yacht Show 2023.

The 55-metre catamaran yacht was inspired by the natural and architectural features of the Mediterranean, and has been designed for long voyages in the Red Sea, as well as navigation in Nordic oceans.

"When we decided to develop this concept, we had a clear goal: we wanted to incorporate all our experience and expertise into it, enriched by our know-how in the field of explorer yachts," explained Sergio Cutolo, President and Founder of Hydro Tec.

"A fundamental part of the brief was also to create a project imbued with a strong Mediterranean inspiration, celebrating our beloved sea and its unparalleled diversity. We worked hard to condense all of this into this extraordinary project."

Hydro Tec have paid great attention to both the aesthetics and function of the new 55-metre catamaran. Her superstructure has been designed as a floating structure, with her wheelhouse discreetly concealed between the partings.

"The exterior is conceived with clean yet sinuous lines, embellished by a distinctive lighting element that emphasises the arch that stretches from the expansive bow to the stern, bestowing grandeur and character to the entire design," explained Richard Partington, Design Director at Hydro Tec.

The interiors of the yacht are bathed in natural light, thanks to her expansive full-height windows. With vibrant and rustic shapes and colours, they stand out for their versatility and are reminiscent of a Mediterranean vibe.

"Every detail reflects the Mediterranean style, from the selection of organic materials and textures to the subdued tones, enlivened by bold splashes of colour," added Hydro Tec. "The spacious and bright interiors blend harmoniously with the external areas, recalling the typical layout of sumptuous residences overlooking the coasts of the Mediterranean."

The 55-metre catamaran spans four decks, all of which are connected by an elevator. Her crew and guests are also able to move around the yacht with ease, thanks to her guest staterooms being located on the upper decks and her technical rooms and crew cabins inside the two hulls.

Her owner's suite is located on the upper deck and is situated towards the bow, the most exclusive and privileged position. At 90 square-metres, the suite embraces the width of the yacht, providing an oasis of relaxation for her owner, with a private balcony, Jacuzzi and ample seating. Behind the owner's suite is a 90 square-metre fitness and spa area that can also be used as a second owner's stateroom, facing aft.

Each of her guest staterooms is inspired by a different destination, from Santorini to Casablanca. Measuring 40 square-metres, they offer retractable balconies that provide guests with privacy and comfort.

The main deck has been designed with a 17.5-metre width, allowing for a residential atmosphere aimed at promoting relaxation and entertainment. Her aft pool offers unobstructed panoramic views and is seamlessly integrated with her main deck.

The aft pool is also surrounded by a bar, allowing guests to enjoy the large Jacuzzi or refresh in the waterway surrounding the rear area. The pool's shape naturally directs the gaze towards the main saloon, which boasts an impressive 6.5-metre window where the dining area and lounge area are located.

The main saloon of the yacht incorporates VBH's latest innovation, Alchimia, which seamlessly blends technology and design, leaving each room free from visible technology while magically transforming natural materials into screens, speakers, or user interfaces.

Moving forward to the foredeck, guests are able to enjoy a relaxation area, with a sheltered lounge around a fireplace and a Jacuzzi towards the bow. This space offers an ideal relaxation area for onboard social life, and is accessible directly from the staterooms.

The helm of the 55-metre catamaran has also been designed to discreetly fit on the fifth deck, primarily dedicated to technical purposes, and includes a helipad and onboard office.

In terms of propulsion, the 55-metre catamaran will be powered by twin MTU engines, connected via shaft lines to two fixed blade propellers, alongside twin electric motors, powered by her onboard network. The electric motors will allow her to reach speeds of up to 10 knots in electric diesel mode.

Victory Design: Bolide 80 Press Conference

Italy-based designers Victory Design held a press conference about their latest 24.9-metre motor yacht, Bolide 80. The impressive "hyper-muscle boat" is the first hull in its high-performance series and is able to reach impressive top speeds of 76 knots.

The lightweight, avant-garde yacht features a full carbon-fibre structure, with an advanced multi stepped 'Super V Victory' hull. Her lightweight design gives her the ability to combine high speed with stability and intuitive control and is the result of Bolide's many years of design and engineering research.

The Bolide 80 is equipped with a 'Victory Venturi Inverted' wing cockpit, which allows airflow to go through the wing, deflecting above the captain's head and eliminating the need for a windscreen. For sun and weather protection, she is equipped with an automated folding T-Top. The full carbon fibre wing is stored behind the driver seat and can be fully deployed automatically.

The interiors of Bolide 80 enhance Victory's 'Made in Italy' philosophy with exposed carbon and fine leather that has been hand-saddled by highly skilled craftsmen. With interior design by Victory Design and Stefano Faggioni, the yacht is designed to evoke all of the senses when onboard. The furniture in her stateroom is built in cedar wood, leaving a gentle smell to all clothing placed inside and she is also fitted with advanced technology onboard for unprecedented comfort.

The Bolide 80 presents a futuristic saloon design adorned with a captivating colour palette of matte black and vibrant orange, elevating the overall aesthetic to one of opulence and sophistication. The air vents onboard the Bolide 80 yacht have been aerodynamically inspired by shark fins, providing a sleek and marine-inspired aesthetic to her overall design.

The Bolide 80 can comfortably accommodate up to four guests across two staterooms, with her owner's stateroom occupying the foremost section of the hull. The stateroom is accessible through a vestibule that conveniently doubles as a wardrobe space.

Unique features onboard the Bolide 80 yacht include her cutting-edge foiling technology, complemented by two independent rudders, ensuring safe and precise control even at high speeds and her state-of-the-art engine room.

Performance-wise, Bolide 80 is equipped with triple MAN diesel engines supplied by Ranieri & Tonissi, Victory's technological partner, allowing her to reach a cruising speed of 50 knots and an eye-watering top speed of 76 knots.