

The Superyacht

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REPORT

PEGASO

A visit to Freire Shipyard to meet the team. Plus: A close-up of her five-person diver-lockout VAS sub.

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The owner talks about how the yacht has confirmed his faith and all the time invested in the project.

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PAINTING WITH LIGHT

What must be considered during the lighting design process and who should be involved?

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FORMERLY

THE YACHT
report

The leading magazine for the design, construction, management, ownership & operation of luxury yachts.



Lighting in the overall design process is often overlooked, and distinctive, attention-grabbing exterior lighting signatures are arguably few and far between. A lack of carefully considered lighting can undo all the hard work of an exterior designer after night falls. "Very little stands out at night time and yachts become undefined masses when viewed from the shore," explained lighting specialist Beatrice Witzgall of I3D Inc. However, with younger owners and bolder exterior designs entering the market, more intriguing and experimental lighting signatures are around the corner. We approached three very different design studios to express their views on the topic.

IMAGE: M/Y AL SALAMAH BY NILU IZADI

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND DESIGNING THE EXTERIOR LIGHTING SIGNATURE & DO YOU EVER CONSULT A LIGHTING SPECIALIST?

Occasionally we consult with a specialist lighting designer; however, we have pre-conceived ideas regarding lighting and they generally end up having to do what they are briefed to do rather than create a concept. For instance, we like to illuminate the external side decks at a low level from the internal bulkhead. This provides a great effect of floor washing using the outside bulwark as a reflector. The main criterion here is to illuminate the side decks while avoiding lighting overspill into the interior, which happens if you install overhead lighting on the side decks. Having set the lighting mood in the interior, there is nothing more upsetting than having the side-deck lights shine through the windows.

Terence Disdale

For larger projects (65m-plus), it is quite likely that the owner would consider employing a lighting specialist. The advantages are that these guys are in touch with the latest lighting technology in the market and are aware of what can be integrated into the systems used onboard. If they have a proven track record and style, which is suitable to the project, they can certainly make a difference. This said, if the owner is set on traditional formulas, then a lighting designer has no room to contribute anything above what the yacht designer can achieve.

If we were doing the lighting, then we would usually calculate for a week, which would include choosing a light system, light fittings and fixtures, a lighting plan (showing the location of the light sources), a switch plan (showing



Terence Disdale, Terence Disdale Design Ltd
(Image: Simon John Owen)



Dimitris Hadjidimos
Partner, Claydon Reeves



Tim Heywood, Tim Heywood Designs
(Image: Justin Ratcliffe)

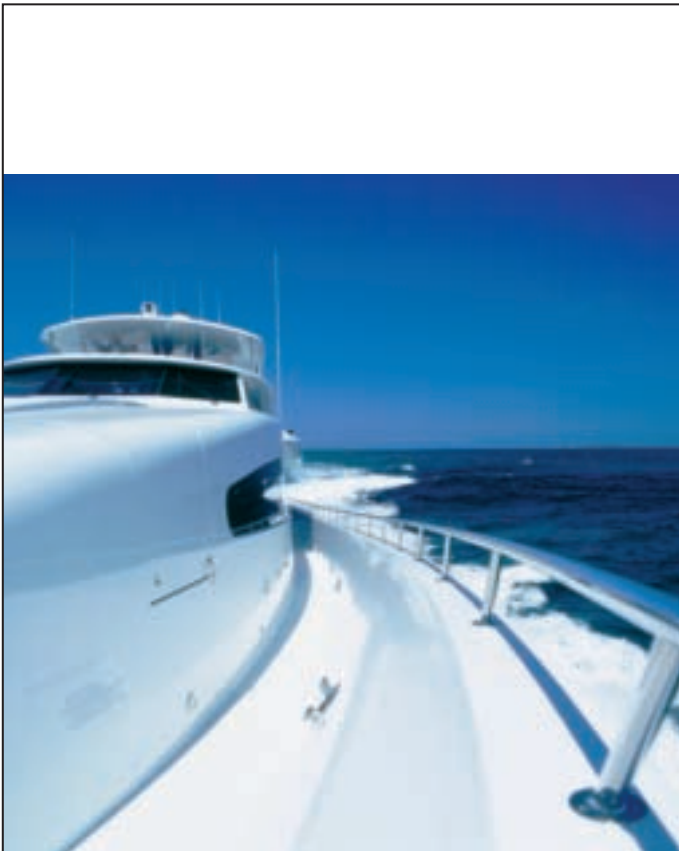
light circuits which are the basis of setting different scenes) and a presentation for the client. After that there would be an ongoing project management period collaborating with the yard to achieve the final outcome. Finally, we would need to go onboard and set all the light scenes/moods, which would light each area in different ways depending on the use and time of the day. The same would be applied to

the external appearance of the yacht.

Dimitris Hadjidimos

I have been designing special light fittings for my yacht projects for over 30 years and I do invest a considerable amount of time on the exterior lighting.

Tim Heywood



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HOW WOULD THIS TIME WORK OUT AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE OVERALL TIME TAKEN TO DESIGN THE EXTERIOR OF A YACHT?

It is difficult to ascertain how much time a good lighting scheme takes to develop. Usually it's integrated as part of the ceiling panel design or the fixed deck furniture features.

Terence Disdale

Due to the complexity of an external design incorporating all the details around the yacht, which is a vast undertaking, the lighting element would take approximately two per cent

of the time based on the whole project.

Dimitris Hadjidimos

The exterior lighting design is approximately three to four per cent of the design time, which on a four-year project soon mounts up!

Tim Heywood

IS THERE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SAILING YACHT & A MOTORYACHT WHEN DESIGNING THIS ASPECT?

Sailing yachts are more problematic, as there is not usually a great deal of superstructure to illuminate or to recess the up-lights or deck lights into.

Terence Disdale

Yes, there is. Most motoryachts have more decks than the equivalent length of sailing yachts, which means a motoryacht offers a lot more external overhead areas, staircases and passages which all can be used for illumination. The rigging on a sailing yacht affects two things: one is that there are a lot more moving parts in use on deck and consequently the operational areas used by the crew to run the boat are much larger. This has to be considered carefully when adding lighting to a sailboat. The second point is that all these moving parts physically do not allow the application of the same type and amount of lighting of that of a motoryacht.

Dimitris Hadjidimos

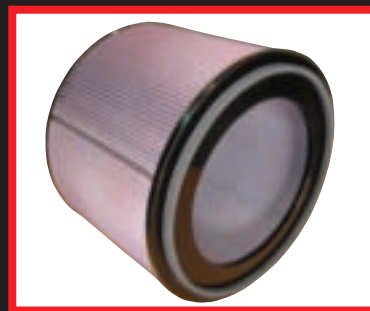
There are far more opportunities on motoryachts to be more creative with the lighting, from underwater lights to the illumination of the mast. A large motoryacht's bulbous bow allows me to floodlight the bow, which I first installed on *Pelorus*.

Tim Heywood

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HOW IMPORTANT ARE LIGHTING SIGNATURES TO OWNERS?

All owners like to illuminate their vessel in a welcoming manner.
Terence Disdale

A lot of this depends on the level of experience and how involved the owner is. We found that a lot of owners just look at a yacht as a whole item, which they either like or not. The fact that a lot of this is achieved through lighting is more something that is left to us as designers. Owners who choose to get more involved in the ways of achieving the

final appearance often find this very rewarding, as once the yacht is launched, they feel a sense of personal achievement having been part of the final outcome.

Dimitris Hadjidimos

They are becoming more and more important, especially on younger clients' yachts where they will consider more adventurous lighting installations.

Tim Heywood

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR EXTERIOR LIGHTING DESIGN & WHAT WILL YACHTS IN A MARINA LOOK LIKE IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS?

External lighting and particularly underwater lighting is an obvious deterrent to unwanted visitors such as pirates. LED is the future of external lighting due to the long lifespan of the fittings and its lack of vulnerability to local temperature changes.

Terence Disdale

With the latest development in LED lighting, it is a very exciting time for exterior lighting and I am convinced that this will become even better in years to come. The technical possibilities are already here to achieve breathtaking effects and I believe that this will filter steadily into the yachting industry. As with the car industry, trends tend to build

up over time, so clients get the chance to grow with the development. A gentle approach to new technologies tends to result in a longer lifespan.

Dimitris Hadjidimos

Yachts are becoming more distinctive at night with interesting lighting effects from bow to stern. But I do feel it is very important to keep the lighting tasteful and subtle and not end up looking like a cheap disco!

Tim Heywood

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