

BOAT

International

THE A-LIST

The top 50 yacht designers in the world

SEXY BEAST

The first all-carbon 49 metre superyacht



The coolest concepts coming soon

EXCLUSIVE
On board with
GIORGIO ARMANI

Design Issue

Starring: Andrew Winch, Terence Disdale, Tim Heywood, Espen Øino, Philippe Briand, Ed Dubois, Rémi Tessier and more



SAILING GREATS

ED DUBOIS

Dubois Yachts
Names don't come much bigger. The 63-year-old has had hit after hit: Escapade, Como, Mondango 3, Zefira. But we're really excited about his 58m performance sloop at Royal Huisman.
Sailing icon...
The 1973 Derecktor Salty Goose

ANDRE HOEK

Hoek Design Naval Architects
No one does elegance quite like Hoek, who founded his company in 1986. With sleek J Class yachts and timeless sloops, the Dutchman, 60, has cornered the "gentleman's yacht" market.
Sailing icon... The J Class Endeavour

BILL DIXON

Dixon Yacht Design
Dixon, 57, fronts this eponymous studio, which designs everything from production motor cats to sailing superyachts, but his first is his favourite: the 36m Yanneke Too, launched in 1996.
Sailing icon... The 31m Ron Holland-designed sloop Whirlwind XII

BILL TRIPP

Tripp Design
The only American in our line-up launched his company in 1984 – and never looked back. Tripp, 60, is the son of a designer and grew up “tinkering on a boat”. His biggest project to date, an 85m in the final stages of completion at Oceanco, is set to break cover soon.
Sailing icon... The 49m Herreshoff Westward

MARIO PEDOL

Nauta Yachts
Pedol's name was all over the world first caught a glimpse of Azzam, the biggest superyacht yet constructed. The Italian designer, 60, penned the exterior of the 180m Lürssen, but it's his Milanese studio's prolific output of custom and production sailing yachts that makes him a great.
Sailing icon...
The 42m Herreshoff Mariette of 1915

This photo was taken just after 7.30am, on the cold roof of a building in the middle of the Tyrolean Alps. It says a great deal about each of these designers that they're not wearing scowls – a handy consequence, no doubt, of a lifetime spent escaping anchorages at the crack of dawn to find some wind or skirt a deep low.

To be a sailing great, it seems, you have to practise what you preach, and each of these men grew up sailing. As well as an enviable back catalogue of sailing yachts, all have branched into motor yacht design. Mario Pedol designed the biggest – the 180 metre *Azzam*. But peer into their souls and we think you'd see a billowing spinnaker.

What all of them do share, however, are reputations so solid they could be Ice Classed. But what does it take to achieve this lofty status? Simple, says Ed Dubois. “You need to listen to the client to identify the *true purpose* (his emphasis) of the yacht.” This, he adds, is the

“central challenge” of any design project. All of the designers discuss the immense complexity of designing a sailing superyacht, and the need to balance sailing performance with seaworthiness, strength, comfort and luxury.

Bill Tripp, who is overseeing the final stages of a massive project at Oceanco, says: “All the various elements must be synchronous to create an exhilarating, elegant and unique yacht.” Andre Hoek, designer of our stunning February cover boat *Wisp*, claims designing a sailing yacht is like “one big jigsaw puzzle!” Bill Dixon says he “tries to develop the whole design, not just, say, the hull design, so from day one we are combining the elements of performance, functionality and comfort”. This sentiment chimes with Pedol, who says his company, Nauta Yachts, has been successful because he’s “found the right balance between form and function”.