



712031 224331

YACHT LIFE LIFESTYLE MEDIA

Year 1, n. 2/2010 - six monthly - Euro 10,00.

Price outside Italy: UK £ 10,00 - L € 10,00 -

US \$ 10,00 - B € 10,00 - F € 10,00 - D € 12,00 -

C € 10,00 - A € 10,00 - G € 10,00 - N € 12,50 -

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NAUTA YACHT DESIGN

A timeless elegance showing the equilibrium between form and function is one of the key characteristics that makes the designs from the studio founded by Mario Pedol stand out from the crowd

Balancing form and function is a tough nut to crack but still one of the instant identifiers of Nauta Yacht Design's work. «It's an equilibrium that comes from our philosophy of exploring the subject in-depth, really put ourselves in the owner's shoes,» says Mario Pedol who founded the company in 1986 with Massimo Gino. «We don't like to prioritise form over function too much: boats have to be used.» In other words, these are designers with a focus on the real needs of real owners. They channel their energies into what ensures a boat will be able to tackle the sea. This is an approach that has always been at the core of the design studio which, don't forget, also began life as a builder too. «The Nauta 54' to 70' series which we designed, built and sold until we decided to devote ourselves entirely to design in 1994, gave us an attitude, a mentality that focused on what you might call the making projects realistically

doable. That's an aspect you'll see reflected in the way we develop construction plans, our designs. And it delights us that this is recognised even by the big yards. In fact, that's exactly what happened with Baltic Yachts and the 112 Nilaya. They felt our designs were ready to go directly into production.» Nauta Yacht Design also has a long-standing relationship with Southern Wind and a well-documented track record in the custom segment, as well as another stable relationship with the world's largest pleasure boat builder, Bénéteau. As a result it is well aware of the many and complex problems involved in production. «And not just that. Several years ago now, we entered the power too, so working with such different areas and on different dimensions. Because we work on all levels from a big group to a yard focusing on luxury custom builds, we are able to take and apply elements from each one to the others.»





Above: the Advance 66 under sail showing the lines of the deckhouse that extend towards the stern to protect the guests in the cockpit. Above, right: the saloon of Streamline, a 105-footer that is the result of a study for a 44-

metre with a deckhouse that Mario Pedol describes as "a transparent wedge of glass". In addition to two lateral "eagle eye" windows, the roof is made of panels of glass creating an extremely light interior. Opposite page, top: the saloon of



Advance. Opposite, below: a rendering of a new 35-metre developed by Nauta Yacht Design for Cantiere delle Marche. The design shows a timeless elegance offering large external areas and panoramic views.

«A balance of form and function comes from our philosophy of exploring the subject in-depth, really putting ourselves in the owner's shoes»

Nauta Yacht Design is also unusual in that it has its finger on the pulse of the very latest design solutions. «Working on hulls with designers of the ilk of Bruce Farr and Reichel-Pugh, who've been involved in the America's Cup forever, really allowed us to stay at the cutting-edge in terms of design solutions, and construction technologies because research and development are always top class in that event. We were also able to explore the potential of the Bénéteau Foundation's hybrid propulsion system which combines diesel engines, electric motors, batteries and generators coupled to the diesel and the prop.» In each and every instance, naturally, there is a huge emphasis on feasibility, which is a major factor in all of Nauta Yacht Design's work. «We just call it good sense. Designing and offering acceptable ideas and solutions. This brings us to the whole green philosophy. There's a lot of talk about that at the moment. I do feel it's a major trend but there's no need to go overboard just because you want to stand out from the crowd,» says Pedol firmly.

Nauta Yacht Design's plans for 2011 span the entire spectrum from a 35-metre semi-displacement for the Cantiere delle Marche to the development of three megayachts inspired by Light, the stunning 80-metre created for Fincantieri Yachts. «We are working on a 60, a 52-metre and a 90-metre all with the same underlying philosophy. Also in the motor area, we have a couple of modern tenders for Maori: a 37 footer and a 75 footer.» This is all, of course, in addition to what Mario Pedol calls his "normal" work for Bénéteau (new Oceanis and Lagoon models, the new hyper-innovative Sense range) and Southern Wind (a new 102). A long list of commissions that, whether they be sailing or motor, share one characteristic, according to Pedol: «I like to think I see a certain unforced elegance in all of them. A timeless elegance. An elegance that isn't invasive or aggressive in the least. A timeless formal validity combined with well thought-out, concrete functionality. Yes, I do believe that they are the factors that link our designs and make them recognisably ours.» ■