SUPERTUG

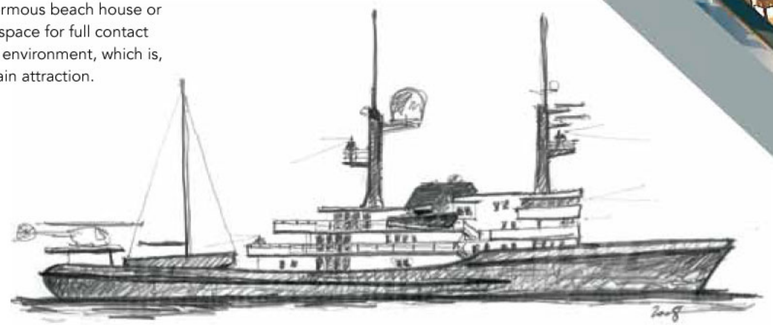
Genoese designer Stefano Pastrovich collaborated with Martin Francis on 59-metre *Senses*, worked with Kusch Yachts on 108-metre *Le Grand Bleu* and was chief designer for the Wallypower 118. Here he describes an unusual concept to convert a 77.4-metre ocean-going tug into an explorer-style yacht.

The basic idea of the project was brought to light by the original lines of the tug, one of four built by the Bugsier Shipping & Salvage Company in the 1970s, and the concept aims to draw attention to the forms that identify it, such as the sheer line, the rub strake on the hull, the twin masts, the funnel and the vertical bulwarks. An intimate knowledge of the original vessel is the most important factor when preparing concepts for a refit as the temptation is always to over design or add too much interior volume and ruin the ship's exterior lines.

Once the vessel was stripped down to the bare essentials, we focussed on the new structure to be added aft of the funnel. It was designed as a new block of superstructure and located at a lower height compared to the forward section in a manner consistent with the sheer line. Care was taken to replicate the original round-edged windows and the hull remains unfaired and painted by hand to denote its rugged vocation.

The general arrangement was completely revisited so as to allow a flexible use of space where living, sleeping and dining areas communicate fluently. We also wanted to create intimate spaces where the owner could sit quietly reading a newspaper, check his email or have breakfast with his family and friends. This kind of freedom to choose on behalf of the owner was an important premise of the initial concept.

Another consideration was how to make the yacht more "fun" from the point of view of living on board. Thanks to the maximum beam of 13.75 metres there was plenty of space to play with, so the interior design is decidedly casual and open-plan with natural materials and textures and a neutral colour palette reflected in the bamboo, whitewashed oak and linen fabrics. An important consideration was to reduce to a minimum the corridors on board and where possible these have been "dressed" with library shelves, day sofas, and the like. The folding doors on the main and upper decks open to provide an enormous beach house or inside/outside space for full contact with the ocean environment, which is, after all, the main attraction.



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