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The **USA ISSUE**

THE MAKING OF A SUPERYACHT SUPERPOWER

AMERICAN DREAMERS: OWNERS OPEN UP

WESTPORT DOUBLES DOWN ON STYLE



Next Gen

As top designers mingled at *BOAT International's* World Superyacht Awards, *Charlotte Hogarth-Jones* asked them to bring to light the exciting new talents on their radar

Photography Jonathan Glynn-Smith

Styling Fiona Rubie

Previous pages: Luiz de Basto, De Basto Designs, and Yiharn Liu, Young Designer of the Year

LUIZ

“I came across Yiharn through the Oceanco Young Designer of the Year programme.

What caught my eye is that she was working with curves, as opposed to these geometric, angled yachts that everyone else was doing. Her design was fluid, and very clean, with well-defined volume, which is difficult to do on a large boat. You can stack decks, and do something clever with horizontal lines, but these organic shapes that Yiharn created are really challenging – there’s an intelligent simplicity to her style, and she knows what to leave out.

I think she can go on to do whatever she wants now – I’m sure she’s going to do well, and I’ll be watching her work closely.

Technology is opening up incredible possibilities for young designers, and those of us who are more established in this field have to be open to that too.”

YIHARN

“I’d already heard of Luiz because DAR, which he designed, is one of my favourite yachts. It was inspired by the hammerhead shark, and my project was based on the manta ray, so I think we both have this love for a kind of fluid, natural shape that helps to bring the ocean in.

I’d say my style is very natural – and like many young designers, I like to raise awareness about the state of the oceans through my work. In the future I want to break through all the decks, to create something where you can’t define each level, and where the exterior of the yacht looks like a seamless work of art.

I’m starting my internship with Oceanco after the Monaco Yacht Show, and I’m so excited to get more practical experience, and to learn alongside really senior designers. From then onwards I’ll be looking to join a studio. Where? We’ll see.”

Luiz wears jacket, £495, brooksbrothers.com, shirt, £115, hackett.com, trousers, £270, richard-james.com. Yiharn wears Joseph trench coat, £675, brownsfashion.com, polo shirt, £55, cosstores.com, watch and trousers, own

Irene Focarile, currently studying at Solent University, and Fiona Diamond, Seymour Diamond

FIONA

“I have an interest in young designers and take an active role in judging the Young Designer of the Year award each year. So I like to approach universities to try to find the emerging young talent in the very early stages of their career – it’s exciting for me to find people before they’ve been trained within a certain company and got used to a particular look or idea. You get the advantage of a fresh outlook.

I came across Irene’s work at Solent University, and what struck me was that it was very mature – it’s elegant and it’s considered, and that’s so rare for someone so young. Plus, in this industry, you have to be a people person too – you can’t be someone who wants to stay behind their computer and hide. Irene is creative, and she has her head on her shoulders. She has an enquiring mind, is a good communicator and is charming too. She’s going back to Milan for a bit and then coming here to do a master’s in aerodynamics, but I’ll be keeping tabs on her. With the real talents, you’ve got to get in early.”

IRENE

“I want to create yachts that are beautiful but functional – I think this combination is extremely important, in every element of design. I know it sounds weird but what

I love about designing boats is seeing how all the little pieces slot together – the arrangement of the systems, the interior layout, the exterior, the aerodynamics. I find it fascinating because everything has to make sense as a whole, as well as its individual part. I’ve overseen every element at university, so it’ll be strange for me to work in a studio where I won’t be controlling the whole thing. For now, I’d like to collaborate with different people, to go to places and learn from them, and also to show them what I can do. If Fiona offered me a job, I’d love to join her. I think I’d be starting my career one step ahead.”

Fiona wears Max Mara trousers, £301, matchesfashion.com, shirt, £130, lucafaloni.com, watch, own. Irene wears Racil trousers, £231, matchesfashion.com, shirt, £120, lucafaloni.com



“What I love about Niccolò is that he was brave enough to follow his passion – to leave his job, with a one-year-old daughter, and to start at a university where he’d be much older than most”

Francesca Muzio, FM Architettura d’Interni, and Niccolò Pasquini, Macra Design

FRANCESCA

“Niccolò is an incredible story. I met him years ago, when he was the captain of Mr Loro Piana’s sailing yacht. We got chatting and he showed me a little hand-drawn sketch he’d done – as soon as I saw it, I knew he had a talent. I saw a purity in the lines; it looked so modern.

He told me it was his dream to be a designer, and I said he needed to go to university – so he did. Because he was a captain, his approach is very practical – he knows how to run a boat, and he knows what owners want too. The last 35 metre he did was really nice, and it’s a very saleable product too. What I love about him is that he was brave enough to follow his passion – to leave his job, with a one-year-old daughter, and to start at a university where he’d be much older than most. Sometimes he spends nights up sketching – I know that now’s the right time for him to shine.”

NICCOLÒ

“I’m not that young, I’m in my forties, so becoming a designer was a hard decision for me to make. I was working in a shipyard in France and I had a lot of people surrounding me – architects, engineers, all very young. I thought, if they can do it, so can I. I know more than them!

Engineering school was all about learning what you can’t do, but I think my experience as a captain makes me more creative – I know what’s possible. My parents had a beautiful old boat, an old Royal Squadron 1896, so I had that experience from childhood.

I exchange sketches with Francesca a lot, and she can be quite tough, but I really appreciate that. She’s always pushing me to find my style, and to think about how I’m presenting my ideas.

I graduated five years ago, and since then I’ve launched various smaller yachts with shipyards, and worked on other projects, like a mechanical wheel that I designed.

Now I’m about to open my first office with my team in Italy, and so everything is taking off. I really believe that there’s space for new designers in the industry – if you really want it.”

Francesca wears Tibi blazer, £426, matchesfashion.com, jeans, £115, ralphlauren.co.uk, Stella McCartney shirt, £450, farfetch.com, Boléro watch in pink gold, £24,400, chaumet.com. Niccolò wears jacket, £115, moss.co.uk, shirt, £130, lucafaloni.com

“I can’t wait to see what Mike does next – he already has a very definite style. And, selfishly, I hope we get to work together on more interiors projects soon”

*Ewa Eidsgaard and Mike Ashley,
both at Harrison Eidsgaard*

EW A

“I first came across Mike when he applied for a job with us. His work was very well thought through, very complete for someone of his age, and the interiors were really detailed too – you don’t often see that with university graduates, who tend to put an enormous emphasis on the exterior. We have a similar aesthetic language, and when you’re on the same level like that, it’s so exciting. We text each other constantly – things from Instagram, things we’ve seen online and liked – we’re such nerds! And he has an endless, boundless enthusiasm, which I love. I can’t wait to see what he does next – he already has a very definite style. And, selfishly, I hope we get to work together on more interiors projects soon. I think we’d create something really special.”

MIKE

“Ewa’s an amazing mentor. We have this wonderful dialogue together, where I feel I can introduce new and different elements to our work, and she’s so open that I feel very comfortable in suggesting things. I grew up in the south-west of England, and sailed my whole life before becoming a deckhand on superyachts, so boats are very much in my genes. I’d love to work with a client that would be willing to really push the boundaries in terms of art – someone brave enough to let me run with a concept based around that would be a dream come true. That’s how you create something really iconic and memorable.”

*Michael wears jacket, £1,295, richard-james.com,
shirt, £130, lucafaloni.com. Ewa wears Max Mara
dress, £301, matchesfashion.com*





*Pascale Reymond, Elizabeth Kozlova
and Andrew Langton, all at
Reymond Langton*

PASCALE

"I was a judge for the Young Designer of the Year award, and I really liked what Elizabeth did. Bearing in mind she was very young, you could already tell that there was a real flair there. She just stood out. When we had to decide who was going to be shortlisted, I really put my foot down with the other judges. 'You're mad!' I said. 'You have no choice, she has to be in the final five.' She's only 24 but she's already surprised me. It's sink or swim in our studio, and her work is 100 per cent better in real life than it was in the competition.

I don't want to rush her. You have to learn as a designer and make mistakes on somebody else's buck. I'm sure she'll own her own studio one day."

ELIZABETH

"Because I come from an automotive background, I always try and keep my designs very dynamic and sleek. I started an automotive degree with yachts on the side at university in Turin, and after doing the yacht part for just two minutes, I realised that that's what I wanted to go into full-time. It's just much more satisfying to work with those shapes. If you have an automotive background, you know the right proportions and lines to use instinctively, and you can tell a yacht designed by an automotive designer as soon as you see it. I've already learnt a huge amount, and I'd absolutely love to work on a project where I could take on both the interior and the exterior design."

ANDREW

"What makes Elizabeth one to watch? It's hard to know where to start. She's super-intelligent, super-talented, and she's already one step ahead. She's quite unique, I think. In terms of effort, she's also a real trooper, and she's quite often the last one to leave the office. We can send her on board already, to client meetings, and she just takes it all in her stride."

Pascale wears own clothes. Elizabeth wears Max Mara dress, £275, matchesfashion.com. Andrew wears jacket, own, shirt, £215, paulsmith.com, jeans, £119, ralphlauren.co.uk, Superocean Heritage II Chronograph 44 Ocean Conservancy watch, £4,880, breitling.com

Andrew Winch and Jake Edens,
both at Winch Design

ANDREW

“Jake was a finalist in the Young Designer of the Year competition, and it’s safe to say his work blew the judges away. His styling is progressive, forward-thinking, and in tune with younger clients and their needs, but he also has a real understanding of the progression of yacht design and respects the history and technical developments behind it. He has an incredible knack for reimagination and, like me, really cares about the design detail; he understands that every inch of every boat must be fully considered. The best advice I can give him is to always give something a go – even if it seems like it’s too much. Think completely outside the box at the beginning of a project, and you can always bring it back in later – that’s one of the reasons our clients have so much fun working with us.”

JAKE

“I had my first experience with yachts while studying transport design, and from there they became my passion. I’ve always appreciated the long lines on superyachts, and I enjoy the contemporary architecture of Zaha Hadid, and the legendary exterior transport designs of Raymond Loewy – both have had a huge influence on me as a designer. In terms of yachts, I think that all Winch designs have a kind of classic elegance. I also love the exterior of *Lady Lara* (Lürssen) – every time I look at it, I notice a new detail to the surfacing. I also think *Tango* (Feadship) is incredible, because its exterior has these strong, almost clinical military lines, and yet it still manages to remain balanced and elegant. My dream project would be to work with a younger client, who has a passion for original exterior forms, while being aware of what makes a great interior.”

*Jake wears own clothes, Luminor
1950 Chronograph Flyback watch PAM
00652, £14,500, panerai.com.
Andrew wears own clothes*



“Jake has an incredible
knack for reimagination...
he really cares about
the design detail and
understands that every
inch of every boat must
be fully considered”



Mark Marshall and Steve Gresham,
both at Gresham Yacht Design

STEVE

"I was looking for somebody to join us as a junior designer, using a headhunter and putting word out in the industry, but none of the CVs coming through were up to scratch. But then I saw Mark's – it caught my attention. I thought, 'A-ha! He'll know about boats,' and he does, because his career began working for a naval architect in New Zealand. The great thing about Mark is that he's a talented designer, but he also knows what works – it's fine to draw something, but you've got to have that backbone underneath the outside shell, which he does. He's got the basics nailed, and in the future he'll be able to conquer Everest. He's very proactive and he anticipates potential problems and heads them off at the pass, but at this stage he's still finding his own style. The studio is a far better place for Mark being in it."

MARK

"Unlike lots of young designers, I didn't grow up in the yachting world – I actually grew up in Luton [UK]! But I went over to New Zealand on holiday when I was 17 and ended up staying for 10 years. Life there was all about spending time on the water – fishing, diving, just getting out there and doing it – and I think that drew me towards explorer yachts in the end. It's no longer the case that you can either have a superyacht or an explorer boat – there's a happy medium, and I'd love to work more on designs in this field. Of course, there's a lot to learn, and in a way I think I'll never stop learning. What I do know is that how a boat works is key, and that I want to produce fantastic products that people actually want to spend time on. If I can become known as someone that really thinks things through, I'd be very pleased with that."

Mark wears jacket, £115, cosstores.com, T-shirt, £19, arket.com, trousers, £280, paulsmith.com, hat, £12.99, heritageofscotland.com, Marine Date 5517 watch in 18kt white gold, £28,400, breguet.com. Steve wears jacket, £350, shirt, £90, handkerchief, £35, all harvieandhudson.com, trousers, £255, paulsmith.com, watch, own (Rolex GMT Master 1963), glasses, own

The Next Generation shoot took place at Butler's Wharf in London, on board 50 metre M/Y *Broadwater*, with kind permission of owner Matt Voorhees (turn to p118 for his insights on the US superyacht market). *Broadwater* was built by Feadship and offers six staterooms, all with new interiors and major upgrades. Instantly recognisable because of her

distinctive blue hull, this full-displacement vessel is comfortable on the water in any sea, yet draws only 2.16 metres, allowing her to anchor in places inaccessible to other 50m vessels. She is currently available for both sale and charter via Worth Avenue Yachts. For further details, contact michael@worthavenueyachts.com ■

The BOAT International Young Designer of the Year award takes place in association with Oceanco. Fiona Diamond and Pascale Reymond were judges for last year's competition, which included Elizabeth Kozlova and Yihharn Liu, as finalist and winner respectively. To apply for next year's competition, visit boatint.com/youngdesigner