LÜRSSEN'S 85 METRE MOTOR YACHT REFLECTS ITS OWNERS’ DESIRE FOR A YACHT FULL OF ENERGY AND FUN FOR Ajoyfulon water lifestyle.
To characterise the yacht *Solandge*, start with the word ‘exuberance’. The word seems to have been borrowed from French and Latin specifically for her. Some yachts are gentile, some cutting edge, some yachts are minimalist, some are deco, and each with the ambiance its label implies. But with 85 metre *Solandge*, every inch makes sure you are having a good time, every element is about living life to the fullest. And it’s not by accident. *Solandge*, says Richard Masters, the yacht’s project and operations manager, had a long design incubation. ‘The owners had another, smaller Lürssen that they had bought on the brokerage market and refitted. They knew they wanted to build their own yacht at Lürssen, so in 2007 they signed a contract for a slot that wouldn’t even become available until 2010, which gave them a tremendous amount of time to refine their ideas,’ he says. ‘They looked at a great many yachts in the mean time, while a special team was assembled to help the shipyard implement the owner’s plans. *Solandge* is nearly 20 metres longer and one metre wider than her predecessor, and offers one more guest cabin – a full-beam VIP to swoon over.’

Along with design details and an insistence on the engineering some two last bottom issues. ‘The new build was part of the construction contract, although Masters says the yard exceeded the requirement in 20 per cent or some places. ‘It was a matter of pride to the guys at the Rendsburg yard, I think,’ Masters says. *Solandge* is based on a modern 80 metre hull and engineering platform similar to that of *Phoenix 2*, *Ace* and *Quattroelle*. ‘The yard’s record keeping is exceptional and if they find something they think is an improvement whether it’s a material or a process, they just adopt it. The folding and lowering stern stairs, an adaptation of those developed for use on *Quattroelle*, are a good example. All custom parts by collaboration permitted the owners’ vision. With a yacht beyond 60 metres, 150 staff, 25, even 20 transformations...’
THE FINAL PRODUCT IS A MIX OF GRACIOUS, SOFT SHAPES AND AGGRESSIVE HARD LINES AND KNUCKLES, OPPOSITIVE BUT COMPLEMENTARY.
Solandge translates to a great deal of cautious, repetitive conservatism or worse, confusion that goes beyond eclecticism. Solandge is innocent on both counts. Masters and the yacht’s interior designer, Aileen Rodriguez, begin their description of the yacht and her build process with the phrase, ‘The owner had a vision.’ That would seem to be an understatement. So would the designer’s comment, ‘They like bright colour.’

But let’s begin at the beginning. Espen Øino was asked to create a profile design based on the owner’s experience with the previous vessel. This included all guest suites on the main deck along with a salon area and an owner’s deck above. During the design period, however, Øino says it became clear that they were prepared to push boundaries and explore more innovative exterior forms. The final product is a mix of gracious, soft shapes and aggressive hard lines and boundaries, opposite but complementary languages that generate energy. The curves, he notes, are mostly in the longitudinal planes with hard edges on the transverse. The exterior paint scheme, especially the white sheen on both decks, adds emphasis. In combination with the white boot stripe, it creates the yacht’s exterior beetle of the transom, lowering the flames in the bow and focusing them in the stern. The transom’s sheer line is lower and more uncomplicated than the owner’s previous interior. The transom is more angular and less imposing, a result of the owner’s vision and the designer’s response.

Step two in the brief was to create many places for guests and family to hang out together or chill out alone. Øino’s directive was to give each deck and space a distinctive function plus create the supporting furniture and built-ins such as bars, buffets, dining areas, a pool and two hot tubs. With so much space to work with, he was able to incorporate an outdoor cinema and nightclub with DJ station on the top deck, an indoor/outdoor gym, a sheltered main deck reception area aft and a private outdoor seating area in front of the owner’s suite. Captain Maxx Ainsworth adds, ‘We were able to fit in a substantial tender garage, a full dive centre and a series of spa areas on the main platform.’

Aileen Rodriguez, an American designer based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, worked on the refit of the previous All spa pools onboard are mosaic-clad infinity tubs mounted above deck level. The upper deck spa pool (above left) can be covered with Perspex to create an extraordinary dance floor.
SOLANDGE yacht, and was working with them on a residence. Because of those other projects, she notes, 'I could show them designs or materials and almost immediately know if I was on the right track, rather than spending months assembling presentation boards that might not have been accepted.'

Pushing boundaries was also an aspect of the yacht’s interior, both in scope and detail. To achieve an open-plan living area on main deck, the spacious aft deck opens onto a multi-functional salon of more than 172 square meters, said to be unique. Rodriguez took a careful approach to the selection of materials, furniture and artworks, travelling to Venice to pick Murano glass pieces from the artists’ workshops. As a result, there is a stunning collection of glass instruments in the salon. The colour of the art glass instruments became the palette for the entire room’s interior design. Says Rodriguez, 'Setting the tone for the exuberant, joyful fantasy named Solandge is the saloon entrance, two stunning, floor-to-ceiling panels of LED backlit amethyst quartz. The stone is sliced thin and pieced together like a mosaic, and now working with them on a residence. Because of those other projects, she notes, 'I could show them designs or materials and almost immediately know if I was on the right track, rather than spending months assembling presentation boards that might not have been accepted.'

Pushing boundaries was also an aspect of the yacht’s interior, both in scope and detail. To achieve an open-plan living area on main deck, the spacious aft deck opens onto a multi-functional salon of more than 172 square meters, said to be unique. Rodriguez took a careful approach to the selection of materials, furniture and artworks, travelling to Venice to pick Murano glass pieces from the artists’ workshops. As a result, there is a stunning collection of glass instruments in the salon. The colour of the art glass instruments became the palette for the entire room’s interior design. Says Rodriguez, 'Setting the tone for the exuberant, joyful fantasy named Solandge is the saloon entrance, two stunning, floor-to-ceiling panels of LED backlit amethyst quartz. The stone is sliced thin and pieced together like a mosaic, and now working with them on a residence. Because of those other projects, she notes, 'I could show them designs or materials and almost immediately know if I was on the right track, rather than spending months assembling presentation boards that might not have been accepted.'
The main saloon (right) is a multi-functional space of more than 172m². A lounge aft of the owner’s suite (bottom) has a fireplace, while the tank deck is a sensible spot for the cinema (below) and sandwiched between the two is a cozy seating area, then a massive dining table fitted fore and aft under Schonbek chandeliers dripping with amethyst and rose quartz crystals, neatly engineered not to rattle. Forward of the dining area is a much larger seating area facing a fireplace and a TV screen concealed behind a painting. The large bar on port is also decked with amethyst and honey onyx, the stone that borders the hardwood floor. Opposite it is a corner seating area, flanked by a Bechstein piano and a Venetian console table. The large bar on port is also decked with amethyst and honey onyx, the stone that borders the hardwood floor.

The yacht is divided at its axis by an atrium lobby dominated by a 15 metre lighted sculpture that has come to be known as the tree of life. It’s nexus was a request from the owner for something running the entire height of the vessel from the tank deck. Made in California, the sculpture contains 1,423 points of light, and is encircled by a magnificent stainless steel and leather bannister that anchors the floating staircase.

Among the details chosen by the owner are the 25-plus wood veneers. He selected woods and grains that...
For crossing, the three chandeliers in the dining saloon are wrapped in cocoons. The 10m seas encountered on Solandge’s maiden trip to the Caribbean left them unharmed. It appealed to him and left it up to Rodriguez to determine their use. The further up in the yacht you go, the lighter the woods become. For example, the use of straight grains and burls juxtaposing light and dark tones in the main saloon evokes a hint of Biedermeier style, but only as a backdrop, as the furniture pieces – both transitional as well as period with brocades and bullion fringes – really bridge the centuries. Forward of the lobby, the guest cabins are more modern, each with a different colour scheme. On the owner’s deck, the apartment includes a private office, his dressing room and bathroom and her dressing room and bathroom and then the cabin itself with 180˚ views overlooking the bow, outdoor seating and a private spa pool. All the spa pools are mosaic-clad infinity tubs mounted above deck level. Water flows over the top edge into a recess below teak grating. This keeps the pool and its surround from being a major, view-blocking structure. Back inside the owner’s suite, a console table with a marble top includes a small table and chair, a lady’s desk with a straight top and a shelf of drawers, while hand-painted hand-carved mahogany doors open to reveal a full feature resort style. The sundeck is large and multi-functional as per the owner’s directive. One beach-chic section features U-shaped seating under draped tent material. The centre deck focuses on a horseshoe-shaped bar with gold mosaic tiles. The centre-deck features a spiral staircase, marble floors, a large bar, and a large, open-air swimming pool.
cushions under a twinkly star overhead. With the open sunning space in full entertainment mode, the deck hosted 60 people for a New Year’s party. Classics such as "New York, New York" resounded throughout Solandge, and the deck hosted a unique dance floor above the spa pool. 'The idea of a Perspex dance floor was easy enough to imagine,' says Masters. 'But then we had to figure out how to lock it in place, store it, and keep it safe to prevent anyone from falling off.' Figure it out they did, and the unique, floating Perspex dance floor area can be lit for parties.

'The large exterior living spaces reflect the current trend for outdoor decks that mirror all the interior functions for guest living,' says Øino, 'Arranging spaces to lounge, eat, drink and play becomes a major factor. The outdoor furniture on Solandge is complex and incorporates edge lighting and features that allow entertaining to be spontaneous.'

Which is a good place to bring up the service aspects built into Solandge; they are exceptional. 'The owners care about service, but they care even more about the well-being of their crew,' said Masters, 'and he respects their input.' In fact, 11 of the crew came with Captain Ainsworth from the previous boat, including a pair of sisters and a father and son team. Crew pathways throughout the boat are ample and clever, there is no need to squeeze by each other with a load of laundry or supplies. The deckhands were given free rein to plan the location of all their supplies and tools on each deck so there is no time wasted running off to a central bosun's locker. Solandge is the first Lürssen with crew passage access from both levels of the engine room, and the division between engine crew and the rest of the hands creates a central location for all necessary work areas.

In the engine room there is space for a dedicated workshop and a separate office for the chief engineer. The dive centre and adjacent office for the chef and chief stewardess next to the custom galley designed by the chef with features that make everything from handmade chocolates and pastries to commercial amounts of ice cream.

Mechanically, Solandge is similar to her just older sister, Quattroelle, and while the former’s dark blue interior suites are shown above in the VIP suite, the current trend for outdoor decks that mirror all the interior functions for guest living, says Øino, ‘Arranging spaces to lounge, eat, drink and play becomes a major factor. The outdoor furniture on Solandge is complex and incorporates edge lighting and features that allow entertaining to be spontaneous.’

### Master Suite

The VIP suite with its large windows, closets and bath seems suitable as the master. That is, until you see the master suite...
The interior layout, designed by 3D studio, made it possible to transfer things and people and to bring more from the 500-bottle wine cellar on the tank deck. The guests have their own lift, a separate garage in the bow, and much like the crew area, the lift was custom made with exchangeable lifts for iPads and phone chargers equipment brought onboard by American charter guests and the chef's ever-growing collection of specialty appliances.

Reflecting on the project, process and its conclusion, Rodriguez says: "The owners wanted every inch of this vessel to be special and have a meaning. It's difficult to design eighty-five meters of special, but I believe that we have accomplished this for them in a very controlled way. We think it's their dream come true - a joyful one at that.

SOLANDGE

The master suite (opposite) with views overlooking the bow, outdoor seating and a private, mosaic-clad infinity spa pool.