

A destination herself, *Pelorus*' vast interior volume provides unequalled levels of comfort and visual delight from Terry Disdale's eclectic palette of naturals.

**CONTINUED
FROM
COVER
FOLDOUT**

A WONDER OF CONTEMPORARY shapes, *Pelorus* is retro in her proportions – her long open decks more reminiscent of sleek ocean liners of the 1930s and '40s than the profiles of modern 300-foot-plus yachts. *Pelorus*, says Heywood, could have had more decks, more cabins and salons, but that isn't the point. A certain lifestyle designed for relaxation is. *Pelorus* offers blissful accommodations for 22 in the owner's party, plus five staff cabins and quarters for up to 40 crew. The enormous appeal of the self-contained resort concept is obvious in the fact that the yacht's original owner received six offers on the yacht before she was completed.

One of those offers, as the saying goes, couldn't be refused and might even have been predicted since it came from a person who had once purchased the original owner's previous boat, 162-foot *Sussurro*. It's no coincidence that Terry Disdale designed the interiors of both.

While the boat appears casual, she delivers a level of service as far above first class as clouds are above the panorama lounge. A sophisticated system of stairs, passage-ways, escape routes and pantry or staging areas allow crew or staff to appear in a room as if by magic rather than as if they had just run the length of a football field.

The layout of *Pelorus* is fresh, even novel in large yacht design. Accommodations are not clustered on a single lower deck; instead they are strategically placed through four decks to afford greater privacy to the owner, VIPs and visiting families. Such a layout also allows *Pelorus* to offer the coziness of a much smaller yacht if



The panoramic lounge demonstrates the interplay of textures with everything from leather, to rope, to banana leaves, iron, lacquer, stones, and chenille. Left, the entrance to the sport deck.

there are but a few guests aboard.

A large part of *Pelorus*' charm is her disarming interior décor and the way interior and exterior spaces flow almost seamlessly. In fact, there are no abrupt changes from one space to another anywhere on the yacht, thanks to wide, gallery-type

corridors and intriguing anterooms leading to all the major social areas. The yacht is all the more elegant because rooms do not open directly onto other rooms.

"The philosophy of the boat is complete relaxation. Despite its size, it's not about volume or display," says Disdale. "The



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Photos by BOB MARCHANT, CHRIS GONTA & RICHARD SEATON

PELORUS

design inspiration came from *Sussurro*, but the object was to move on from there. I had a very free hand with the interior – there’s more of my design ideas in this boat than any other and as such it was a very creative process for me.” From her rough oak and slate floors to woven banana leaf ceilings, all surfaces and furnishings – apart from a

couple of chairs – were designed by Disdale and made especially for *Pelorus*.

Disdale, known for juxtaposing million-year-old ammonites with 21st century lacquered surfaces, wrapped *Pelorus*’ considerable interior in soft – even distressed in some cases – finishes. The resulting look is more like a family’s treasured

beach house than a high-tech yacht and puts guests immediately at ease. Within this comfortable envelope he has placed enough details, art and found objects to keep guests enthralled for days if not weeks at a time. For example: end tables made of fossilized tree trunks from Malaysia, screens that are actually dugout canoes from Burma,



The salon is a more cozy space and opens to the dining room, shown below, with its terrace open for unlimited views.

coconut bark from the Philippines and antique Chinese opium mats used as wall coverings, driftwood table tops from Bali, iron sculptures and leather ceilings from England, plus intriguing interplay of cotton, linen, suede, raffia, nickel, bronze, pewter, amethysts, and, of course, the beloved fossils.

By day, *Pelorus*' interior is flooded by natural daylight from a staggering number of

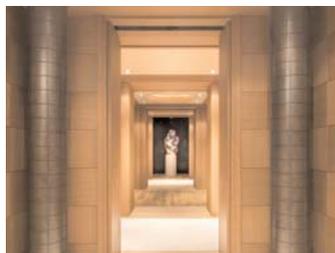
oversized windows. By night, the interior is intimate, courtesy of a deliberately restrained lighting plan that relies in great part on fiber optics. "There aren't a lot of spot lights. We let a lot of the ceilings go dark rather than design massive amounts of overhead lights in every room. I don't know why yachting clings to them," says Disdale. But dark,

according to Disdale doesn't have to be dingy. For example, the salon doors are almost black, but by no means dark. "They are painted bronze with a black patina and light bounces off the ridges and gives them incredible depth," says Disdale. The pattern for the doors is an ancient Chinese temple door – another of his found objects.

Pelorus is exquisitely finished throughout but without the sense of a gilded lily. "The boat follows fashion. You don't have to wear a Saville Row suit anymore to show that you are a millionaire. Wealth has moved into a new world," he says. To that end, there's no gold hardware on *Pelorus*; instead, it's all sensuous, earthy metals such as nickel, bronze, copper, pewter or silver.

The heart of the yacht's resort aspect centers on the sport deck, which can be entered from the main salon by descending a cascade of curved oak steps, or from the exterior watersports and boarding platform. The sport deck includes a fully equipped gym, dive room, two massage rooms, a beauty salon, an office for the fitness instructor, a therapeutic Haslauer mud bed room with adjoining shower, a steam room, dressing rooms and a plunge pool chilled to five degrees Celsius. For those who want to do their swimming in warmer waters, the shell door of the gym folds down to create a terrace and guests can





Counterclockwise from right: The VIP stateroom opens onto a private terrace extending from the hull. The owner's office and gallery is far removed from the master suite. The central stair column. A corridor to guest accommodations.

jump off the treadmill into the ocean.

All four of *Pelorus'* custom tenders were designed by Heywood and Sam Sorgiovanni and built at Vikal in Perth, Australia, and all four store on the main deck aft of the salons. This open-air, full-beam tender bay transforms into a floating disco once the tenders are removed. Rotating lights and disco balls clip into receptacles in the ceiling with lights and sounds controlled from a DJ booth aft.

In addition to the gym and tender bay hull openings, *Pelorus* has seven other hull apertures. Some are as predictable as a stevedore entrance for the crew and an opening stern platform. But others are unique to *Pelorus* and create the second of her defining spaces –

the plein-air salons. The main salon and dining salon sit side by side on the main deck, divided by enormous pocket doors. At first glance, the salons appear flanked by three floor-to-ceiling portholes on port and starboard. Further inspection reveals the portholes are actually outside the room, separated by sliding glass doors. On command, massive sliding bolts unlock 12-foot by nine-foot sections of the hull, which fold down. As the crew fits in place three teak inserts, the walls that had contained the portholes are now teak terraces. With the sliding glass doors retracted, the entire 60-foot wide section of deck opens to embracing tropical breezes.

Above the paired salons is the panorama

lounge. With two seating areas, two games or snack tables, a magnificent bar and three plasma screen TV/video monitors, this space is capable of entertaining large groups. The panorama lounge spills onto a partially covered aft deck sprinkled liberally with sun pads and lounges. Here, and on the sun deck above, sun worshipers will while away the hours. The sun deck features a hot tub to warm up and a swimming pool to cool down. The pool features jets that allow the swimmer to swim against a preset current – thus swimming in place – a handy feature if the ocean temperature is less than enjoyable or the yacht is in transit. The sun deck also features indoor and outdoor service pantries. A

Well over 100 feet long, the sun deck offers a pool and Jacuzzi, service bar, multiple seating areas and an elevated dining area aft of the mast.





With single and double chaises plus bean bags for kids, the dedicated cinema is an AV-lover's dream.

raised platform tucked behind the considerable mast features a dining table for upward of 16 guests.

The sweeps and curves of *Pelorus*' decks and superstructure are all the more appreciable because the entire yacht is steel, an engineering choice for reasons of hull flexibility and metacentric height. "We are quite pleased with the yacht's performance," noted *Pelorus*' build captain Howard Crowther. "With two bow thrusters and oversized, independent rudders that swing through fifty-five degrees, she's quite maneuverable for a boat of this size. She's a good sea boat."

The wheelhouse, designed by Heywood, is a masterwork. With low helm consoles and elevated watch-keeping stations, not to men-

tion the substantial wing stations, operating visibility is exceptional. A chart console dominates the center of the room and its position aft of the helm keeps the navigator out of the way yet close at hand in piloting or emergency situations. Offices for the captain and purser, as well as the captain's cabin, are aft of the wheelhouse.

While *Pelorus* has many superlative systems, including an articulating 30-foot passerelle, 1,500 alarms covering systems at 200 monitoring points, and two pairs of retractable fin stabilizers, it is inevitably the graceful profile and uncompromising attention to details of a chic, casual lifestyle that characterize this yacht. Together they create, as her captain said, "a venue of her own importance."



techtalk

Pelorus is built to Germanischer Lloyd class and MCA requirements. Because of her size, she is also subject to ISM regulations, a factor that fully occupies one of the seven engineers on board. Yet for all her features, including an electronics, communications and security package offering nearly infinite customization, *Pelorus* is remarkably straightforward in systems and ship-like in her redundancies. There are some exceptions, however. Air conditioning specialist Heinen and Hopman claims *Pelorus*' HVAC system is the most complex yet developed.

Fresh air is pulled aboard through wings high on the side decks and sent through a three-stage filtration system of demister, electrostatic and carbon filters. The cleansed air is routed to 10 air-handling units capable of consuming 640kW of power, or roughly three times what is usually necessary to cool the interior. To re-establish a pleasant humidity level – 60 percent – steam vents are located in each air handler. Because of the yacht's many opening doors, sensors are established in each air-handling zone to measure the local humidity levels. Air from galleys, the crew and staff mess, the spa and mechanical spaces is vented directly outdoors rather than recirculated.

Tim Heywood asserts *Pelorus* has the best bridge ever designed and front and center on the helm console is a unique navigation feature. In addition to her onboard sonar viewed on any monitor, *Pelorus*' captain can call up transponder data from echosounders located in two of the yacht's tenders, which can be sent ahead to scout passages in uncharted waters. An interesting development given her 15-foot draft and extensive cruising in out-of-the-way places.

For interior resources, see page 128. For mechanical specifications, see page 186. For extended specs, click on (www.showboats.com).

