

[MEGAYACHT]

Areti

Lürssen has surpassed even its own standards of sculptural and engineering excellence to produce this 85m bespoke yacht tailored around her owner's interests, most notably his passion for road bikes, with London studio Winch Design styling the interiors and exteriors

by Paola Bertelli - ph. by Tom VanOossanen and Klaus Jordan





Regardless of whether you first catch sight of Areti sitting in berth or cleaving the waves, you will be struck not merely by her sense of calm, timeless elegance, but also by the fact that she is very much a proper yacht rather than yet another bling-filled floating palace. This was exactly what her seasoned owner asked for. Areti is extremely and beautifully balanced from stem to stern, right down to the smallest detail. Given that she stretches 85 metres in length and 15 in the beam, the effort involved in making her look so effortless must have been significant.

Tellingly, in fact, three-and-a-half years passed between the signing of her build contract and the day her proud owner took delivery. The project posed a long list of technical and engineering challenges tackled by Lürssen with its usual mix of relish and expertise. Winch Design also brought powerful creative clout to the mix, crafting both the exterior and interior styling on an entirely bespoke yacht very personally tailored to reflect her owner's wishes.

Areti's harmonious lines are clothed in a muted livery of cream and white with subtle grey accents. Her magnificent sea-facing terraces stack from her beach area to the sun deck like steps on a very beautiful staircase. In the interior, the styling has a classic maritime chic embodied by a sense of utter coherency. Lustrous Makore wood with strong architectural mouldings is used throughout and flanked by Emperor and Botticino marble. The background palette is neutral with splashes of emerald, dandelion, camino, blue, crimson, indigo, lilac and coral used on the likes of scatter cushions, the hand-stitched curtains and other soft furnishings. Lighting, both natural and artificial, is a seamless element too and very much part of Areti's aesthetic, cleverly and discreetly drawing out the colour, texture and patterns of the interior finishes.

The main saloon cocoons guests in refined opulence, offering abundant seating on its neutral sofas and oversized chaises. A sublime book-matched Makore dining table, handmade in the UK, easily seats between 12 and 16 guests on hand-turned silk dining chairs with hand-embroidered decorative back-panels.

The owner wanted a completely private apartment for himself and his family on the owner deck. Lürssen ensured this was so with a sliding privacy door that closes the area off. In addition to the master stateroom with its astonishing 180-degree-view panoramic windows, there are also two VIP cabins.

Out on deck is an equally secluded area complete with a spa pool, alfresco lounge area and breakfast table. A further four guest cabins lie on the lower deck with two forward, also on the main. The arrangement is designed not just with the owner's family in mind but also to allow him to host large groups of friends. These will inevitably gravitate towards the voluminous sky lounge where huge sofas and armchairs form a snug television area in which the enormous flat screen TV is discreetly masked by a specially-commissioned Alexander Creswell sailing scape. There is also a games table and a granite-topped wet bar before near-full-beam double glass doors open onto the deck outside to reveal a striking custom teak table capable of seating up to 16.

Although the atmosphere on the main and upper decks is regal, the owner gives vent to his abiding passion for bikes and the sport of road racing in the aft area of the lower deck. Here the guest cabins connect directly to the professional spa, relaxation area, beach club and swim platform. However, the pièce de résistance comes in the spa lobby where a glass-walled, steel-framed storage room reveals a set of professional road bikes and their maintenance workshop. The thermal spa area is adorned with a rose mosaic hand-crafted by Serbian mosaic artist Andjelka Radojevic, and comprises a steam room, sauna, full-depth plunge pool and a hot tub. Multi-temperature experience showers with light, sound and aroma settings can also simulate a Niagara-style waterfall and a Caribbean storm. Aside from connecting the spa area to the sea and the swim platform, the oiled teak-floored beach club is itself a transition area where interior and exterior meet and meld as it opens via a large transom door to the swim platform, complete with Lürssen's now-trademark staircase descending to the sea.

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Areti's maritime-inspired interiors have a calm, unhurried cohesion to them. Seen here is the lounge on the owner's deck. It took three-and-a-half years from contract signing to the delivery of this 85m steel and aluminium beauty





Winch Design has kept the inside-outside dialogue vibrant: the main saloon (top left) opens onto the cockpit through a wide opening. The dining table was handmade in the United Kingdom while its chairs are hand-decorated silk. To the side, one of the VIP cabins and, left, a close-up of the superyacht spa with its rose mosaic by the Serbian artist Andjelka Radojevic

Exterior designer

Andreas Iseli, Head of Exterior Yachts, Winch Design



Being a completely bespoke design, Areti was built to meet all of the owners' exacting requirements to the highest standard, being mindful of and in line with the Passenger Yacht Code. The level of quality in craftsmanship, design and detailing shines through. The yacht has a real British design and German manufacturing pedigree.

Winch Design was responsible for both the exterior and interior design, and has given the yacht a sleek and perfectly balanced signature, complemented by a traditional but fresh interior style. The subtle cream hull, along with the white superstructure and grey accents, enhance the elegant exterior but also match the owner's previous yachts.

Throughout the yacht there are multiple outdoor areas, with each serving its own purpose: dining, socialising, relaxing and private spaces to enjoy the yacht without intrusion. For example, the private owner's area, which is directly accessed through the owner's stateroom, is fitted with a Jacuzzi, spacious sun loungers and a breakfast table. The outdoor spaces also work as one entity. This is seen in the connection between the swim platform, wet lounge and spa.





The helipad forward of the owner's deck is huge (opposite page). This deck also leads down to the main via latch doors to the promenade sidewalks. This page, two bird's eye view photos brilliantly highlight Areti's timeless style and the importance given to al fresco areas which are essentially prodigious sea-facing terraces protected by retractable awnings with customised up lighting



Andrew Winch, founder Winch Design

What I like about Areti is how calm it is on board!

The interior has a traditional feel with an American classic twist, a custom design that was created according to the owner's requirements. We actually mocked up the entire thing.

The key materials include neutral, textured fabrics and lavish woodwork, to create a soft, comfortable and relaxing space. The level of quality in the craftsmanship, design and detailing shines through in both the interior and exterior of the yacht.

Winch created many bespoke items for Areti and also worked with several exceptional suppliers. For example, Linley produced Winch bespoke jewellery boxes supplied for the owner and dressing rooms.

A key factor onboard is natural light. There is a sky

light placed above the wet lounge and natural light shines through the numerous windows. But it is not entirely reliant on natural light: custom decorative lighting was key to creating a welcoming and relaxing atmosphere.

The owner wanted a monochromatic palette in soft creams and taupes, and accent colours chosen in concert with paintings curated just for this project by an American art adviser.

As Areti was built in accordance with the Passenger Yacht Code (PYC), we had to comply with a series of regulations and make some very precise choices, such as in terms of fire protection. One of the reasons we used a matt finish on most of the furnishings was for the simple reason that gloss lacquer is highly flammable.





A combination of straight grain and figured Makore timber provided the basis for the interior design. Areti is a yachtsman's yacht. The superior craftsmanship and design detailing shine through in everything from the workmanship of the stairs to the wine cabinet in the main saloon (page opposite) and custom bar stools (top) with hand-embroidered details on their backs

Dietrich Kirchner, Project Manager Lürssen

The client was the owner of a fleet of one 60m and two smaller yachts, which he happily sailed. However, he was out for the chance to create synergies by combining the features of his yachts in one substantial approach. He contacted the shipyard and we then developed the initial ideas of the project with him from there. His primary goal was to host his family and very good friends simultaneously, providing privacy and generous hospitality at the same time. The number of guests onboard made it necessary to have the yacht built according to the Passenger Yacht Code (PYC). With a length of 85m and less than 3000 GT, the task was to create a layout that fulfilled the complex requirements regarding escape ways and structural fire protection. Along with the fire protection came the treatment and selection of the materials used for the interior. The look, feel and touch of the interior was not to be compromised in any way so that it would not look anything less than a luxury interior. The result speaks for itself as one cannot see the difference. Technically, Areti represents the state-of-the-art with the capability to comply with updated requirements. For example, the exhaust lines of the auxiliary engines are fitted with soot particle filters and catalytic converters.

The lift goes to all decks. That includes the sun deck, seen here by night, with its large sun pad, sun loungers and sofa. An "invisible" windshield deflects wind at anchor and when Areti is underway



The engine room layout has space reserved for the eventual future fitting of urea injection and additional catalytic converters in the main engine exhaust line. As the keel laying date was in 2015, this was not a requirement at the time. The owner's passion for a racing bike riding with his friends is reflected in the layout of the lower deck aft interior area with four guest cabins en suite with a spa area and the beach club providing direct access to the aft swim platform. In between, there is a glass bike store that can take a full set of bikes and equipment for a cycling team. The engine cover of the open tender boat features a carbon fibre hood moulded to clip on and carry the race bikes ashore and back onboard after the ride. With this set-up, the guests can be picked up with the bikes at the aft platform and returned there too after the ride to relax in the spa and massage area and enjoy refreshments from the bar in the beach club. My favourite part of Areti? Well, the idea of waking up in the morning, leaving a guest cabin on the lower deck to stroll through the corridor to the aft swim platform for a jump in the ocean.

