



## A YACHT LIKE ALICE

*When British writer Nevil Shute wrote *A Town Like Alice* and *On The Beach* in Australia in the 1950s, he foresaw vast societal changes taking place. Leading German yacht builder Lürssen has created another Alice to help explain what it knows may happen tomorrow.*

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**H**ints have been about for some time. Peter Lürssen, who heads the family-owned, eight-yard facility building private yachts from 50m to 150m, said during the second edition of *Lürssen Live!* online last year that they had developed an advanced fuel cell technology enabling vessels to slowly cruise a 1,000 nm coastline, or spend 15 nights at anchor, in totally emission-free mode.

He described the process, reported in *Yacht Style* #59, as using hydrogen re-formed by methanol to produce a revolutionary fuel cell system. The waste is nothing more damaging than “warm moist air”.

A “pioneering owner” keen to offset the effects of climate change was building a vessel with them, he said, and had given permission for public disclosure of some aspects of this project.

We began the annual Nov-Dec *Top 100 Superyachts of Asia-Pacific 2022* feature in *Yacht Style* #62 with an opening spread showing a low-lying Maldives island, the 136m Lürssen superyacht *Flying Fox* nearby, and text about how the interests of these “two private islands are increasingly coalescing”.

This led to considerable further discussion among owners, captains and the industry. Lürssen, for its part, said that the yard “remains very discreet when it comes to yachts under construction or its clients.

“But to promote the sustainable technology of the future, we have developed an innovative, climate-neutral vessel called *Alice*, which shows what a future Lürssen yacht could look like.

“*Alice* is an emergence into the new era. Right now she remains a



*Alice offers astonishing al fresco settings with pools and plants instead of formal enclosed lounges and dining rooms*



*Interior design follows conventional superyacht styling, but new ideas in materials and layouts save or better-utilise energy*

model, but one that paves the way. A fraction of reality in movement”.

Latest concepts probably stemmed from two extraordinary vessels by the late great Australian designer Jon Bannenberg, both built by Lürssen. *Limitless*, 96m, was delivered in 1997, and *Rising Sun*, 138m, in 2004. They began a voyage that will hopefully lead to zero emission propulsion in the years ahead.

*Alice*, 98m, theoretically made her debut in late 2021, and is discussed by Lürssen’s lead exterior designer Jim Sluijter, in a video available on YouTube. A separate video provides a virtual tour. Interiors are by Dasha Moranova Designs.

The vessel is climate-neutral, Sluijter reaffirms. Emission-free fuel cells generate electrical energy based on hydrogen re-formed from green methanol. The fuel cell replaces conventional diesel generators on board. For higher speed and energy demands, an additional methanol engine is added.

Further energy saving technologies recover heat emissions for use within the HVAC system, for both heating and cooling purposes. This is complemented by, as one of many examples, mirrored glass windows around the owner’s deck to reflect heat. It serves as thermal insulation, and reduces the energy load for air-conditioning systems.

One equally astonishing development comes, on the video, when Sluijter ponders *Alice*’s exterior design. Not a few owners, he remarks casually, tell him that they don’t really use the traditional lounges and dining rooms that take up the principal deck of a superyacht, preferring upper level views and more *al fresco* living spaces, with the suites located below.

If this is the case, he wonders, why not create something

completely different. *Alice* instead has parks and ponds “transforming the yacht’s deck into a natural paradise, which when combined with the living walls in the interior, create a unique ecosystem on board”.

“Nature’s crisp perfume surrounds *Alice* in its own atmosphere, and teak is replaced by fast-growing and lightweight, organically-farmed wood that meets the high standards needed for private yachts, while giving the same exquisite look and feel”.

Swimming routes meander through real estuary-style vegetation, blending the scents of plants with the scend of the sea, and another elevated exercise course can be seen from the deck.

Just what sort of perennials may be planted as the yacht makes passages between the tropics and say the Antarctic remains to be seen, and presumably they would need to be hardy in the face of salt air and high winds, but certainly the challenge is thrown out for a new breed of horticultural consultants.

A model of *Alice* is going on display at the Miniatur Wunderland in Hamburg in 2022. This contains the world’s largest model railway, and is one of the most visited attractions in Europe.

For Jim Sluijter’s remarkable description of *Alice*, see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq\\_5j8t\\_tzs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aq_5j8t_tzs)

For a virtual tour of *Alice*, see [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LmzX3ByKM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LmzX3ByKM)  
[www.youtube.com/lurssenyachtsgermany](http://www.youtube.com/lurssenyachtsgermany) ✂

[www.lurssen.com](http://www.lurssen.com)

*Before too many more moons, Lürssen foresees zero emission propulsion for both private yachts and commercial shipping*

