



Planing or displacement, in fibreglass or aluminium, the award-winning Italian designer creates his signature dynamic exterior lines and balanced interiors, for experienced and demanding owners

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esign, in my opinion, should be considered as a process in which there is an idea, then a move from that to pencil strokes on a blank page, a study to translate those marks into a real object, keeping in mind emotion, dynamism of the forms, simplicity, elegance, consistency, balance, accuracy, attention to detail, functionality and research," says yacht designer Francesco Paszkowski, who has spent more than 20 years immersed in the world of boats. "You always have to be able to predict in advance how people will want to live in a few years time." The Milan-born designer grew up in Florence, surrounded by a tremendously stimulating artistic heritage. This sparked a passion for design, initially for cars, but then a fascination with yachts took hold. The turning point in his career came in 1990 when he opened his studio deep in the lush green hills outside Florence. Since then, he and his team have created designs both for private owners and some of the most prestigious Italian and foreign brands, planing and

displacement. They worked not only on exterior lines but also on interior development. In fact,
Paszkowski's yachts have won him several international awards over the years. His list of clients is long and illustrious: Baglietto, Heesen, CRN, Sanlorenzo, Canados, ISA, to name but a few. "However, it is always the people that are the key to each new story. It really makes very little difference whether that means the yacht owner personally, or the owner or the manager of the yard: they all leave their mark. Getting to know the yard and the people working there is as essential as listening to owners to understand their tastes and wishes as and how they live their lives."

Whether it's an open, a planing megayacht or a big displacement vessel, a sense of movement is one of the signatures of the inimitable Paszkowski style. "Movement is a simple action and that's how it should be, with no superfluous frills that only detract from the elegance of a design," he comments. In











Above: a sketch of a 60-metre CRN yacht. Francesco Paszkowski always starts with a pencil drawing, the natural took of the designer. Opposite, below: a rendering showing the sporty lines of a 58-metre Heesen yacht currently being designed by

the yacht designer. Top: the elegant lounge aboard Blue Scorpion, a 53-metre Baglietto. The long collaboration with the Ligurian yard has produced some 15 models and one of the latest, Baglietto MV signals that the yard is expanding its horizons and looking at new areas of interest after the takeover by new management. Paskowski is also designing: a 58-metre displacement, a 46 and a 43 Fast, ensuring smooth continuity of the exterior style of Baglietto.

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harmony with the exterior, Paszkowski's interiors feature linear forms (examples include wall-based furnishings, wall panels, soft furnishings, inclined hand-basins in bathrooms to help water run freely) as well as a meticulous finish throughout. The result is a style that is always at the cutting-edge." Baglietto takes up a good deal of Paszkowski's time. After creating 15 different models, he unveiled his latest design in September. The Baglietto MV 13 has a distinctively sporty, almost military look that is a major departure for the yard despite the fact that it is an aluminium build. It also ushers in a whole new era for Baglietto. "After I met with Beniamino Gavio when he acquired the yard, we produced three new designs: a 58 displacement, a 46 and a 43 Fast. It goes without saying that creating a sense of continuity with the Baglietto tradition was an enormously gratifying experience for me."

Paszkowski has an in-house team of five, with Michele Lubrano as chief designer, while he works with architect Margherita Casprini on interiors. The studio also has close links to the academic world. Paskowski believes the yachting world has also changed dramatically: "After growing disproportionately large and fast, and creating false

expectations, it has returned to a more balanced size. Many owners today are very well informed and demanding. The nautical culture really differs from country to country even within Europe itself. The Dutch yards, for example, are outstanding when it comes to organising production while, when it comes to creative genius and finding rapid alternative solutions, the Italians have the lion's share," he says. The studio is currently collaborating with CRN on the exterior styling of a 60-metre due to splash next year, the interiors of a 50-metre (the second in two years) for Heesen, the interiors of the SL 118, the flagship of Sanlorenzo's fly series, the exterior lines of which it is also restyling, and the latest Explorer 42. That is without mentioning several new concepts on the drawing board and a project under development for the German yard Lürssen.

"Work has become tougher but that isn't having any effect on passion or curiosity. It's easy to surprise people, strangely enough, but actually coming up with new, viable solutions is all about detail and demands massive focus. Because to have genuinely good ideas you need to have a past to remodel and unveil again with a new face. You always, always have to keep looking forward."