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TANKOA'S SUPERB SUERTE

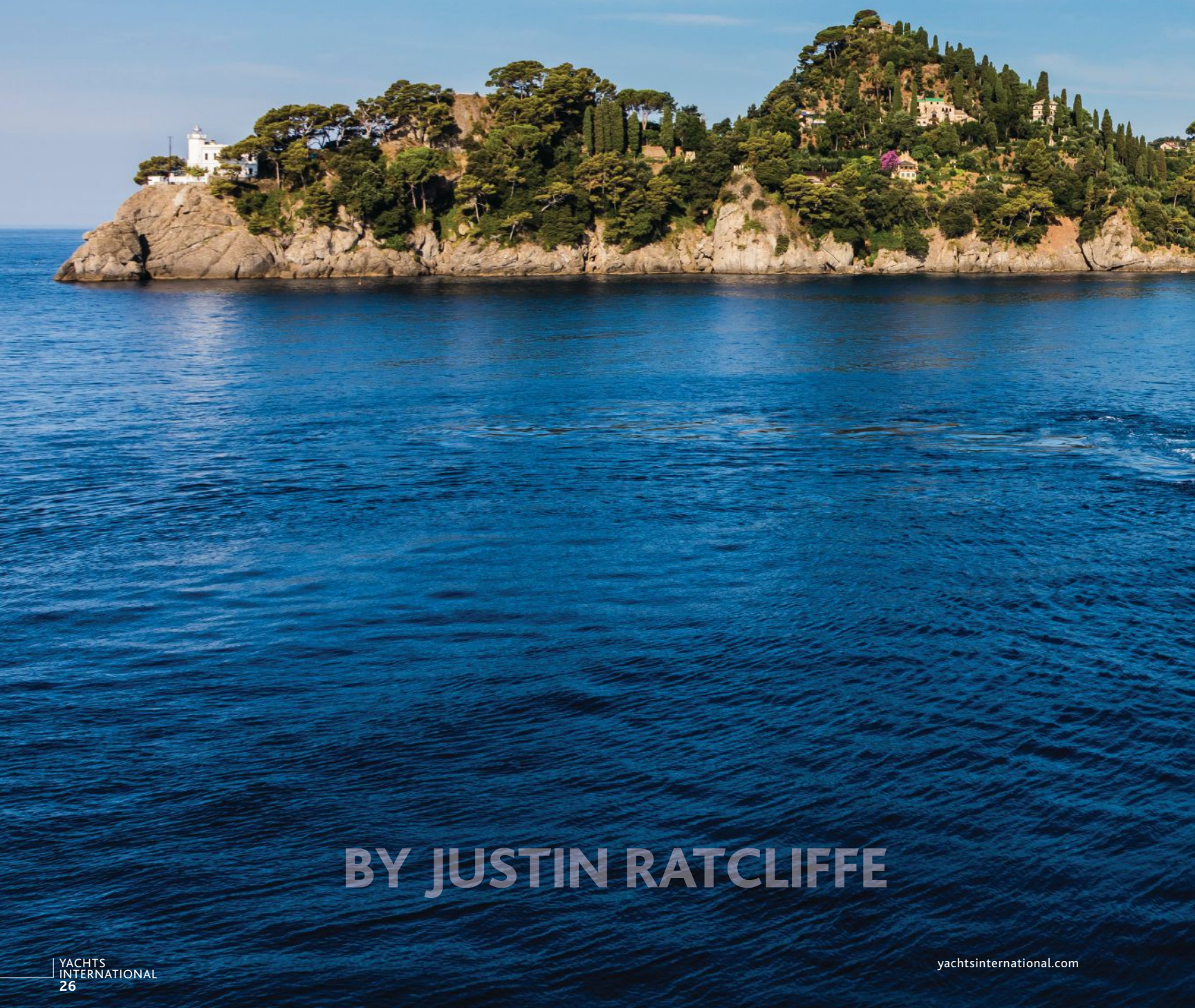
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LADY

STYLISH AND STATE-OF-THE-ART, *SUERTE* REVEALS NOTHING OF HER DIFFICULT



BY JUSTIN RATCLIFFE

LUCK

GESTATION THAT REQUIRED AN ITALIAN SHIPYARD'S PLUCK AND DETERMINATION.



'LUCK IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PREPARATION MEETS OPPORTUNITY,'

wrote Seneca, the Roman Stoic philosopher. It is highly unlikely the owner of 227-foot (69.3-meter) *Suerte*—Spanish for “luck”—had Seneca in mind when he named his yacht, but the moral of the quote is more than relevant to her story. A couple of years ago, she was sitting half-finished in a shipyard in Genoa, Italy, with no prospect of a buyer. Last September, she was among the showstoppers exhibiting in Monaco, where her builders declared the yacht would “set new standards in the Italian yachtbuilding sector.”

The outlook was not always so rosy. *Suerte* began life as one of two 64-meter (210-foot) sisterships at the Tankoa shipyard, which former Baglietto owner Guido Orsi set up in 2008 prior to the financial crisis. The first hull—designed by Francesco Paszkowski with engineering by Vincenzo Ruggiero—quickly sold to a friend of a Tankoa investor. The unlucky period in *Suerte*'s history began when the investor died, and the yard's only client walked away. Tankoa bought back the unfinished yacht and work progressed for a few months, but as the recession took hold, construction ground to a halt in 2010.

And so it remained until Tankoa approached yachting consultant Michel Karsenti for help in finding a buyer, particularly among his clients in Russia and the Middle East. Karsenti was impressed by the yard's in-house facilities and the high-quality construction of its first project, but felt the original design needed tweaking.

“The yacht had been designed in 2008, and I felt it no longer met the expectations of the marketplace,” Karsenti says. “We had to bring it up to date and create a modern classic by refreshing the design based on the existing hull and superstructure. Tankoa said that if I had a client, they were willing to do it.”

Paszkowski revised the exterior lines and, with interior designer Margherita Casprini, created the interior concept. The most significant change was to the vertical transom, which was restyled to mirror the sheer of the bow with a wall of glass at sea level, overlooking the swim platform. On the strength of these and other modifications, a contract was signed with a Moscow client in March 2014.

The yard's luck had turned, but as Seneca would have us believe, there is no luck without preparation. Before the ink was dry on the contract—in fact, before it was even signed—Tankoa had already begun implementing the design changes, which included adding around 13 feet to the stern in stainless steel, to accommodate the new glass-front beach club. The extra waterline length brought with it an additional advantage when tank tests revealed it would provide extra speed for the same installed power. During sea trials with 7-foot waves and winds gusting at 35 knots, *Suerte* recorded a top speed of 18 knots, and her CAT engines (de-rated to reduce fuel consumption and increase time between overhauls) provided a range of more than 5,000 nautical miles at an economical 12.5 knots.

Delighted the build was back on track and determined to show their capabilities, the yard managers upgraded the specs without consulting the owner. A dry stack and particle filter were added to one of the Northern Lights generators to prevent exhaust fumes from invading the aft platform and two side terraces at anchor; the mast design was tested in a wind tunnel to prevent the same on the top deck when





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: *Suerte* was sold in part on the strength of revisions by Francesco Paszkowski to her original exterior styling; The cinema lounge and 'winter garden' on the main deck; The wood sculpture by French artist Thierry Martenon highlights the interior's natural tones and textures.



underway; more bridge equipment was specified; and a heated windshield was installed. A Michelin-star chef was brought in to consult on the galley design: Among his recommendations were the custom door latches, operated with one finger on the stainless steel cabinets, which also have curved corners and inside edges for easy cleaning.

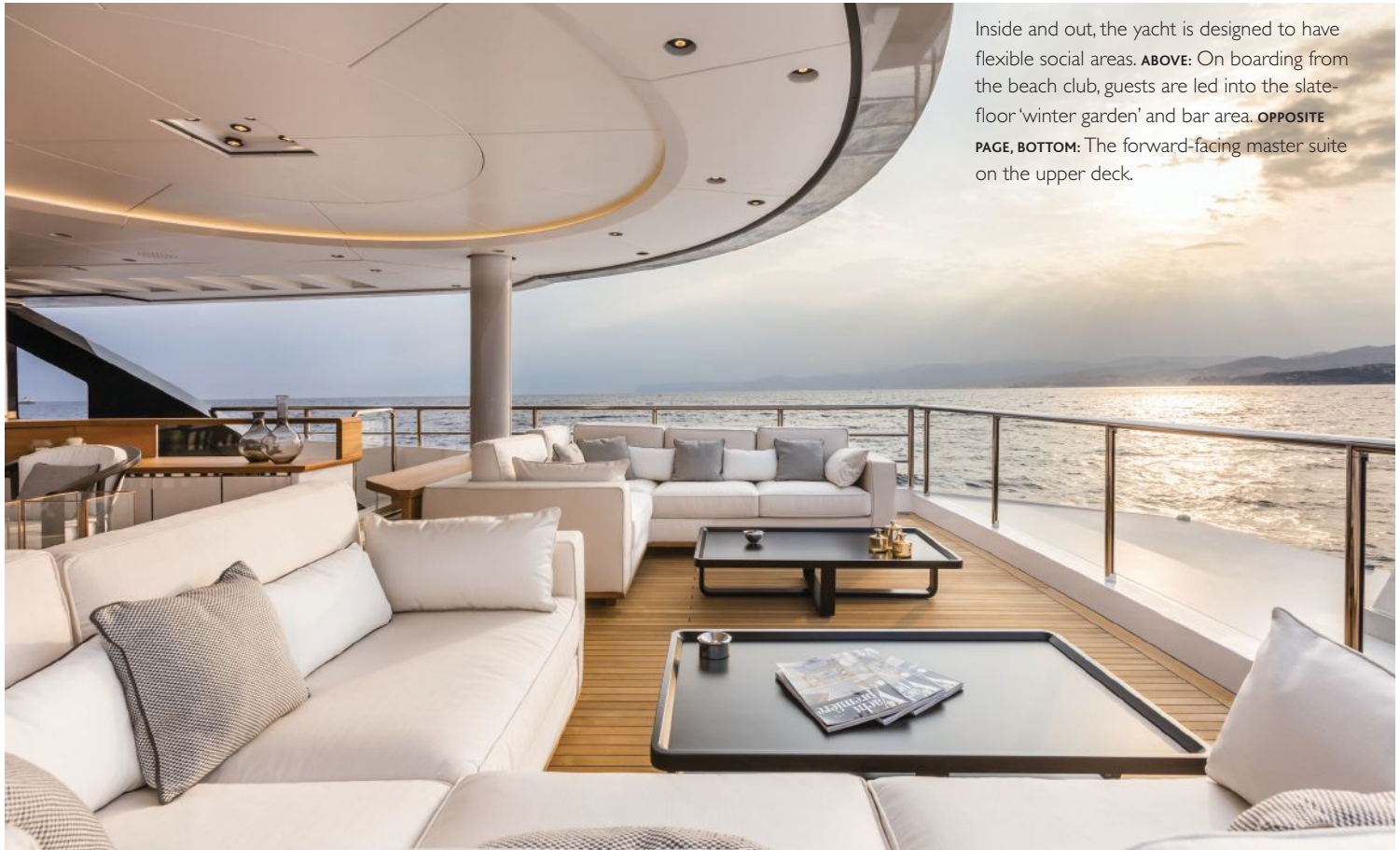
"This is our first boat, and the attitude was that it has to be the best," says Renzo Chelazzi, Tankoa sales manager and a professional captain who brought 25 years of operational experience to the project.

Based on input from the yard and owner, the designers devoted as much of the yacht's considerable volume (1,467 gross tons) as possible to the interior and exterior social areas, rather than the staterooms that are used primarily at night (with the exception of the owner's apartment that occupies the forward half of the upper deck, including a private terrace). Paszkowski and Casprini, having devised a flexible general arrangement, then selected a palette of materials, tones and textures that lend the interior a sober, yet warm and welcoming ambience.

"The brief from the owner was based on sensations and atmosphere rather than specific materials," Paszkowski says. "The interior had to be generic enough to appeal to the varying tastes of charter guests, but still be charming and sophisticated."

Unusually, the main entrance is via the glass sliding doors to the beach club, equipped with bar, loungers, hammam and bio-sauna (a gentler option with lower temperatures and higher humidity for those who find the traditional Finnish sauna too hot to handle). The beach club, with its textured oak ceiling, teak paving and slate-clad walls, sets the relaxed, convivial spirit for the rest of the interior.

BETWEEN TWO FLOOR-TO-CEILING PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS ON THE WALLS (ECONOMICALLY SOURCED FROM GOOGLE IMAGES) IS A BAR WITH A BESPOKE ALUMINUM SURFACE SHAPED AND RIVETED TO RESEMBLE AN AIRPLANE WING.



Inside and out, the yacht is designed to have flexible social areas. **ABOVE:** On boarding from the beach club, guests are led into the slate-floor 'winter garden' and bar area. **OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM:** The forward-facing master suite on the upper deck.

A central staircase opens into the main salon, which is divided into two zones. Full-height glazing with louvered blinds provides a Japanese-style “winter garden” overlooking the aft deck. Between two floor-to-ceiling photographic prints on the walls (economically sourced from Google Images) is a bar with a bespoke aluminum surface shaped and riveted to resemble an airplane wing. The bar area leads into a cinema and chill-out room with seating for 16 people to watch movies on the curved, 88-inch, 4K TV screen. Integrated into the bulkhead adjoining the dining room is a 265-gallon tropical aquarium. Amazingly, it was discovered that fish can suffer from seasickness, so the tank had to be pressurized to reduce the movement of the water inside.

The oak and teak veneers that anchor the interior design are complemented with tan leather wall tiles, creamy Jerusalem stone, Carrara marble, polished stainless steel accents and white lacquered surfaces. Some of these materials are combined with bespoke textiles by Studio Maleki in Florence, Italy, to provide a variety of textures underfoot and create intuitive pathways that guide guests from one space to another. The interior designers were also responsible for sourcing the artwork on board, ranging from the large-scale photographs on the walls and statuettes in dedicated niches to bold installations such as the monumental wood sculpture adorning the upper-deck lobby by Thierry Martenon, a self-described French *sculpteur sur bois*, or “wood sculptor.”



"We were maniacal about these kinds of details," Casprini says. "The interior is quite minimalist in style, and that means the execution had to be spot-on. It's much easier to disguise imperfections in a more elaborate interior design."

The five guest suites are on the main deck to make best use of the natural light streaming in through the large windows (the lower deck is dedicated to crew quarters and services, with laundry and dry/cold stores on the under-lower deck). Among the guest staterooms, the full-beam VIP is a gem, every bit as sumptuous as the owner's apartment on the deck above. Earmarked for use by the owner's son, the VIP is arguably the most masculine interior space, with white onyx and carbon-fiber accents not found elsewhere on the yacht.

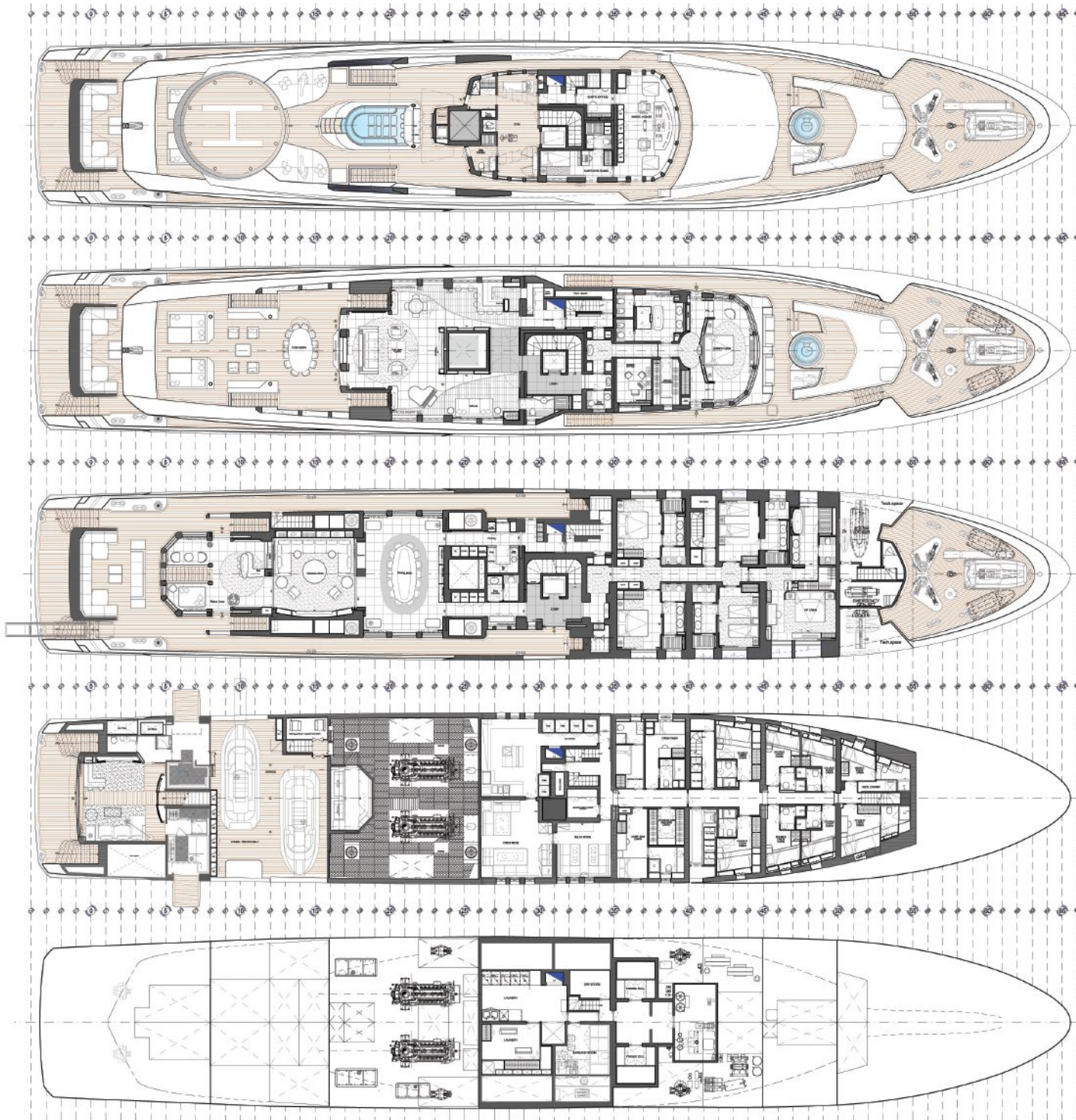
The upper deck also has two sections. The forward half is devoted to the owner's apartment with study/library, and the sky lounge is aft with another flat-screen TV, baby grand piano, ethanol fireplace and sushi bar. A sliding partition on the starboard side converts the conversation corner into an extra cabin with adjoining head for supernumeraries. The main seating area, flanked by two textured paintings on canvas, is illuminated by eight skylights in the bottom of the pool above.

Not so long ago, it looked as if *Suerte* had fallen victim to the vagaries of the marketplace. Today, she is a shining example of what preparation and perseverance can achieve, even when the odds seem stacked against you. **Y**

For more information: +39 010 8991100, tankoa.it



The skylights in the upper-deck lounge filter light from the pool and wet bar above. **ABOVE:** The aquarium between the dining room and cinema room had to be pressurized because fish can suffer from seasickness.



TANKOA SUERTE

LOA: 227ft. 4in. (69.3m)

BEAM: 38ft. (11.6m)

DRAFT: 10ft. 8in. (3.3m)

CONSTRUCTION: steel and aluminum

DISPLACEMENT (half load): 1,010 tons

GROSS TONNAGE: 1,467

ENGINES: 2 x 2,447-hp Caterpillar 3515B

PROPELLERS: 2 x Detra 5-blade fixed pitch

FUEL: 42,267 gal. (160,000L)

WATER: 9,774 gal. (37,000L)

SPEED (max.): 16.5 knots

SPEED (cruising): 15 knots

RANGE: 3,000 nm at 15 knots; more than 5,000 nm at 12.5 knots

GENERATORS: 2 x 230 kW Northern Lights;

1 x 155 kW emergency

STABILIZERS: VT Naiad, four fins, at-anchor

CLASSIFICATION: dual class RINA/Lloyd's (MCA LYC2)

NAVAL ARCHITECTURE: Vincenzo Ruggiero

EXTERIOR STYLING: Francesco Paszkowski

INTERIOR DESIGN: Francesco Paszkowski, Margherita Casprini

GUESTS: 12 guests in 4 staterooms, 1 VIP and 1 master suite

CREW: 11 cabins + 1 captain's cabin

BUILDER: Tankoa

YEAR: 2015

SEE

the complete photo gallery of Tankoa's *Suerte* and find more yacht reviews like this one at yachtsinternational.com