



PHOTOGRAPHY: WATERLINE MEDIA. INTERIOR DESIGN: MARK BERRYMAN

Trends

## THE STYLE FORECAST

What are the prevailing interior trends for superyacht owners this year? Our expert panel tells *Risa Merl* what to expect – and what to reject – for 2021

**In the world of superyachts** the term “trend” can seem like a misnomer: yacht interiors are full of variety. Some owners opt for modern motifs, others for classic elegance, and some throw away the rulebook to create something entirely bespoke. Yet if you look closely and pay attention, it is possible to pick out materials, shapes and moods that mark the moment. We ask those closest to the process – from interior designers to suppliers, art purveyors and audiovisual masters – what trends they are currently seeing, both on the way in and on the way out.

One consistent trend in recent years has been for the interior aesthetic of a superyacht to extend to exterior areas. This is certainly true of *Life Saga*, the 65m Admiral launched in 2019. Interior designer Mark Berryman's love of Japanese styling and the owner's desire to spend as much time as possible outside resulted in this huge aft deck lounge area





Winch Design has demonstrated its ability to mix and match old and new, antique and modern, with the interior for Here Comes the Sun, the 83m Amels launched in 2016, above, and with the 80m Abeeking & Rasmussen Excellence, below. Right: Californian studio Bonesteel Trout Hall placed a desk inspired by an old trunk in the modern interior of Nomad



HERE COMES THE SUN PHOTOGRAPHY: WINCH MEDIA. INTERIOR DESIGN: WINCH DESIGN. NOMAD PHOTOGRAPHY: RICHARD POWERS. INTERIOR DESIGN: BONESTEEL TROUT HALL. PHOTOGRAPHY: WINCH MEDIA. INTERIOR DESIGN: WINCH DESIGN



Left: the Mirage floor light, in glass and porcelain, by Vezzini & Chen. Right: Hitomi Hosono's A Very Large Feather Leaves Bowl is carved porcelain with gold leaf interior



## Mix it up

Combining old and new is no longer taboo, says Mark Piolet, director of art dealer Adrian Sassoon. Instead, matching eclectic styles from different eras can create a sense of timelessness. "Mixing antiques with carefully selected contemporary works of art can help to weave a narrative that can feel deeply personal and highly interesting," says Piolet. "Juxtapositions

of contemporary sculptures, for example, set against a backdrop of antique paintings and furniture, will only enhance an interior."

Combining a range of disparate styles is also increasingly popular when it comes to superyacht tablescapes. "Tableware is a trend that does not seem to be slowing," says Rob Bieniasz, managing director of interiors

supplier Glancy Fawcett. "There is an art to mixing and matching linens and accessories to suit a yacht's interior scheme. We were delighted to demonstrate this with one of our latest projects, which is delivering this year. The interior has been described as having an 'open beach house' style, which has filtered into tableware too."

Right: Like a Painting, a porcelain tray by Hering Berlin, can become a highly decorative feature. Below: Floe XXXII by New Zealand glass artist Galia Amsel







## Organic touches

Owners are straying away from shiny materials that need to be constantly wiped clean of fingerprints and are instead choosing tactile materials that are meant to be touched, says interior designer Cristiano Gatto.

“Instead of high-gloss marble, the new trend is more about natural limestone, travertine or marble that is given a ‘leather’ finish and has a different feel to it entirely,” he says. “We rarely do any high-gloss wood either; it’s all about open-grain woods now.”

Using more natural materials, says Selina McCabe, a partner at Winch Design, can actually help guests to feel more at ease on board. “Raw stone, more naturally treated wood, brushed bronze, chamfered edge and deep, curved furniture all invite guests to put their feet up and relax on a whole new level,” she says. “Even the dressing is taking a step back, with soft throws and organic linens taking the place of daybed covers – and plant life is being encouraged to thrive inside.”

They’ve also noticed a shift in clients choosing texturised goods at Glancy Fawcett. “This has been a popular look within our recent projects,” says Bieniasz. “We’ve seen a healthy appetite for exploring organic and rustic-focused luxury, showcasing textures, tones, precious materials and nature-inspired products.” This includes leather- and rattan-covered pitchers, hand-stitched linen throws and alabaster shell cigar trays.

Also taking its cue from Mother Nature, Buccellati’s Marina collection showcases real shells layered in precious silver. “Nature is one of the greatest inspirations for us, in particular in this collection with shell centrepieces and objets d’art that are popular on board superyachts,” says Maria Cristina Buccellati, the company’s marketing and communications director.

Rustic beauty is taking over deck furnishings as well, with glossy, varnished teak being avoided in favour of natural finishes. “We are seeing a trend towards natural teak, neutral fabric shades and more organic shapes and forms,” says Hilary Gustafsson, president of Summit Furniture. More pieces have recently been added to Summit’s Arc furniture line, a collaboration with Winch Design, which was inspired by the texture of sand and movements of the sea.



*Clockwise from top left: Buccellati’s Murex Ramosus, a real shell covered in silver; the natural, unglossy bathroom of Heesen’s Project Sapphire, designed by Cristiano Gatto; Glancy Fawcett offers rustic-inspired tableware, exquisite bed linen and rattan-wrapped pitchers to complete the natural look*



SAPPHIRE PHOTOGRAPHY: CRISTIANO GATTO DESIGN TEAM; INTERIOR DESIGN: CRISTIANO GATTO DESIGN TEAM; COURTESY OF BUCCELLATI: GIOVANNA BELLINI; SALVATORE FERRAGAMO; JARCKO JÄMSÉN; AIVAN; GLANCY FAWCETT: JARCKO JÄMSÉN; MARK BERRYMAN; MAGNET PHOTOGRAPHY: GULF CRAFT; INTERIOR DESIGN: CRISTIANO GATTO DESIGN TEAM



*Clockwise from below: Cristiano Gatto’s interior for the Gulf Craft Majesty 175; stoneware pots give a down-to-earth look; the restrained informality of Mark Berryman’s Life Saga*



## Keep things simple

Purity of form and simplicity is now preferred to overwrought, excessively busy styling. “There is definitely a trend that’s taking yacht interiors towards a more pared-down, less fussy look,” says Jarkko Jämsén, head of yacht design at Nordic design firm Aivan. “It doesn’t mean that it’s not luxurious, quite the opposite: it’s the ultimate luxury. The new style is more architectural and clean,” he says. “Naturally, it helps that yachts are getting bigger, so there’s more space to play with.”

This thirst for simplicity applies to a yacht’s colour palette as well. Gatto points out that

the requests for big, contrasting colours are diminishing. “Instead, we are being asked to create calm atmospheres,” he says. Gatto created the interior for the Heesen project Altea that was inspired by tranquillity with a nod towards refined Japanese styling.

A similar approach was taken for two new Gulf Craft yachts he designed: the brief was to focus on creating a sense of well-being on board. Ornate, fussy interiors are passé, as is bling. “I don’t see overt glamour as one of the targets at the moment,” says Gatto. “Yachts are going back to being more about private

enjoyment. It’s not about being flashy and showing off.”

Simplification is on the rise in all aspects of yacht interiors, even down to the technology. Owners are returning to the simplicity of a remote control over the use of tablets to control their tech. “Some owners never liked using a tablet or smartphone to control their AV,” says Maurizio Minossi, CEO of Videoworks. “Now, with smart televisions and special software interfaces, everything can be done by a remote control, which appeals to owners as it’s the simplest approach.”





AURELIA PHOTOGRAPHY GUILLAUME PUSON.  
INTERIOR DESIGN: CANTIERE DELLE MARCHE

The Francesco Paszkowski-designed upper deck saloon for Cantiere delle Marche's 39-metre Aurelia features a relaxed seating area which doubles as a cinema room





AURELIA PHOTOGRAPHY: GUILLAUME PLESSON, INTERIOR DESIGN: CANTIERE DELLE MARCHE

The brief for Aurelia, says Francesco Paszkowski, “was to create a peculiar interior – it had to reflect the owner’s personality. He doesn’t like a boat interior furnished with famous brand furniture, he likes objects and furniture which have a special feeling and vibe, which tell a story and have a flayout”

#### Casual comfort

Owners are spending more time on board these days than ever, which is making comfortable interiors paramount. “Clients are now living on board for two to three months at a time – five years ago it might have only been a couple of weeks,” says Cristiano Gatto. “That is a big difference.” He notes that the turbulent events of the past year in particular have put a huge focus on clients wanting to create comfortable, liveable yacht interiors.

“Part of it might also be because of a small influx of Californian, tech-industry owners,” says Hilary Gustafsson. “They are more casual in California – they wear shorts and T-shirts, and don’t own ties. That owner is not going to want this formal, lavish lifestyle on board... they want it a little more fun, more casual, more comfortable.”

Creating more comfortable interiors extends all the way to the softest of bed linens. An increased demand for the highest thread counts has been noticed at Glancy Fawcett. “Over and above what people are used to,” says Bieniasz. “So much so, charter guests are now requesting our line of 1,400-thread-count cotton sateen bed linen for their homes, after experiencing it on board. Clients love finding new ways to heighten their sense of relaxation and luxury.





*“As far as trends go, sustainability is probably the biggest one around. We work with natural materials that age with grace”*



Above: Winch Design’s Barefoot concept for Amels features a wealth of sustainable wood. Right: Alvar Aalto’s classically simple Savoy glass vase

## Sustainable chic

One interiors trend that is hopefully here to stay is the ever-growing focus on sustainability. “As far as trends go, sustainability is probably the biggest one around,” says Jarkko Jämsén. “At Aivan, we’re already working with natural materials that age with grace and can be repurposed, but we’ll probably see some circularity in interior pieces and elements too – for example, designers making use of reclaimed natural materials in an elegant way.”

Summit Furniture has been ahead of this trend, proudly noting they’ve used sustainable, plantation-farmed teak to create their furniture for more than 40 years. “We’ve been doing it for decades, and now it’s imperative for the industry,” says Gustafsson. “Clients are much more aware than they use to be. They are floating around the world so they want to be as responsible as possible, and they want to know the story behind the materials and the artisans.”

The push towards sustainable products is being seen in smaller builds as well. Gatto designed the interiors for the Astondoa 80, which recently sold to an American client. “The focus there was to use a limited amount of wood, recycled leather and water-based lacquers – all designed with sustainability in mind.” Gatto notes that today’s clients are less interested in using exotic animal skins and are opting for eco-friendly materials.

Winch Design has created a sustainable interior concept for the new Amels 60 Barefoot, which employs linen made from orange fibres, renewable rattan, palm leather and surfaces made from aloe vera, “which creates a beautifully harmonious, beachy interior”, says McCabe. “We are confident that we have demonstrated that sustainability is synonymous with bespoke design executed to the highest level.”



Left: Summit Furniture uses sustainable teak for its elegant PK241 outdoor lounge chair. Below: Cristiano Gatto’s interior for the Astondoa AS8



## Explore more

The increasingly adventurous way that owners use their yachts, as seen in the uptick in explorer vessels, has also made an impact on yacht interiors. “Our clients love to travel the world, hence we’ve seen a surge in interest for explorer yachts,” says McCabe.

“Crucially, the interiors of these yachts allow clients to cruise to some of the harshest climates in the world, but in seven-star luxury. The interiors are sumptuously comfortable... and they often incorporate winter gardens to maximise the indoor/outdoor lifestyle that our clients are growing to love.”

Good views, enjoyed in comfort, are essential

in far-flung and often hostile environments. To meet this demand, Team Italia has developed the Observation Point bridge, as seen on the recently delivered Codecasa *Framura*. It features an unusual design with a central, walk-around island and two side peninsulas placed against the windows, ensuring amazing views for the owner and total control in every operational situation for the crew.

“The wheelhouse is not considered a purely technical space any more: it’s now seen as a convivial area where the owner can enjoy the sea and the navigation,” says Minnella Massimo, co-founder and sales manager of Team Italia.

The lure of exotic destinations has even trickled down to the cutlery. Buccellati marks this trend with its latest collection, inspired by the Tahitian landscape paintings of Paul Gauguin. The Tahiti tableware collection is comprised of bamboo pieces Buccellati created specifically for an influential Italian yacht owner.

“The destination-style of interiors inspired by travels around the globe is perfect for yachts,” says Buccellati. “Objects for this interior trend have an essence and a story to each of them. What better way than to be surrounded by items inspired by memories of your travels?” ■

PHOTOGRAPHY: FRANCISCO MARTINEZ PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF BUCCELLATI; COURTESY OF WINCH DESIGN; ART GLASS BY ALVARO AALTO – PHOTOGRAPHY BY COLLECTION KAKKONEN/RAUNO TRASKELIN, SANLORENZO 62STEEL PHOTOGRAPHY: PHOTOGRAPHY: GUILLAUME ENSON, INTERIOR DESIGN: MICHELA REVERBERI, OCEAN PARADISE PHOTOGRAPHY: JEFF BROWN/COURTESY OF BENETTI, INTERIOR DESIGN: ADRIAN LEE, MAURO IZZO

Clockwise from top left: 72.2m Stella Maris has a two-deck vertical garden; bonsais on board 54.9m Benetti Ocean Paradise; Sanlorenzo’s 62Steel main saloon; Buccellati’s Tahiti collection





PHOTOGRAPHY AND INTERIOR  
DESIGN: WINCH MEDIA

Winch Design's "inviting and tactile" interior concept for the Amels 60 Barefoot includes deep sofas upholstered in sand-coloured fabric made from post-industrial yarns.

Other sustainable materials utilised in the concept include orange fibres, rattan, palm leather, surfaces made from aloe vera and sculpted sand used as a wall finish