

# THE ONE

## YACHT & DESIGN

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*The Art  
of Sailing*

Sanlorenzo  
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# Olokun

Bold and sophisticated, Tankoa's third 50m is clothed in strikingly powerful, dynamic lines penned by Francesco Paszkowski Design and emphasised by an unusual two-tone livery of black for the hull and metallic grey for the superstructure. The sublimely minimalist interiors bear the stamp of Casa Dio USA

by Olimpia De Casa - ph. courtesy of Tankoa





Olokun, the latest 50m from Tankoa Yachts, brims with edgy character. The black of her hull and metallic grey of her superstructure perfectly encapsulate her soul: this aluminium tri-deck from the pen of Francesco Paszkowski, who crafted her exterior lines and interior layout, confirms the success of this bold, dynamic design and the efficiency of the Italian yard's technical platform. Olokun is the third example of the series begun with Vertige and quickly followed by the sale of her hybrid sistership, Bintador. Like all the yachts splashed by the boutique yard, which focuses on building a small number of flawless craft, lavishing both time and attention on its products and clients who always play an active part in the process.

Olokun is a very unusual yacht, as to be expected given that the yard specialises in superior personalisation. In fact, she really epitomises the state of the art in terms of her customisation whilst still boasting effortless functionality. "Olokun represents the pinnacle of yachting achievement. Design has to be a balance between aesthetic and function: of course we have to be sure that the result meets the client's requirements but also that it is safe and can be used for at least the next 20 years," confirms Tankoa's CEO Vincenzo Poerio, emphasising the importance of the reliability of a craft and the rational integration of its plant, electronics and efficient use of the available space. The penalty for failing on any of those points is an immediate loss of credibility on the market. These days demand is increasingly specific. In this particular case, for instance, the yard had to send more than 10 different samples of black wood gloss (one of the dominant colours together with grey and oak in the interiors too) to the Casa Dio interior design studio in Miami, which knows the owner's tastes inside out. So much so in fact that the interior designer personally chose the materials used aboard, resulting in a clever and beautifully balanced interplay centred around brushed oak in three different colours: natural oak, Tokyo Black and Bitter Grey. The three colours are alternated on a large scale for the vertical trims and ceilings, a motif that runs harmoniously through all the decks. It also appears in the bathrooms where it is paired with the toughness and elegance of Compac high tech quartz (used for the Calacatta and black marquina marble trims) and also in the cabins where it creates a delicious mix with jute and wool carpeting by Loro Piana. All of the furnishings – footrests, occasional and console tables, and sofas - were designed and supplied by the studio itself, which lavished extraordinary attention on the finishes: from the gradient of colour to the gloss/matt contrast. The decision, made at the owner's request, to create a large lounge area on the main deck is unusual too as this involved the dining area being moved to the upper deck. The other space that sets Olokun apart from her sisters in the series is her garage, an extension of the beach club designed and kitted out as a luxury area. The owner chose not to have a tender at all but instead a 15m chase boat painted in the same black as Olokun. However, if necessary, this extension of the beach club can be converted back into a garage as the telescoping crane for tender launch and retrieval has been left in situ. The remaining spaces, however, are traditionally laid out with the master suite stretching the full beam of the forward section of the main deck and four double staterooms (two VIPs and two standard guests) on the lower deck. [www.tankoa.it](http://www.tankoa.it)

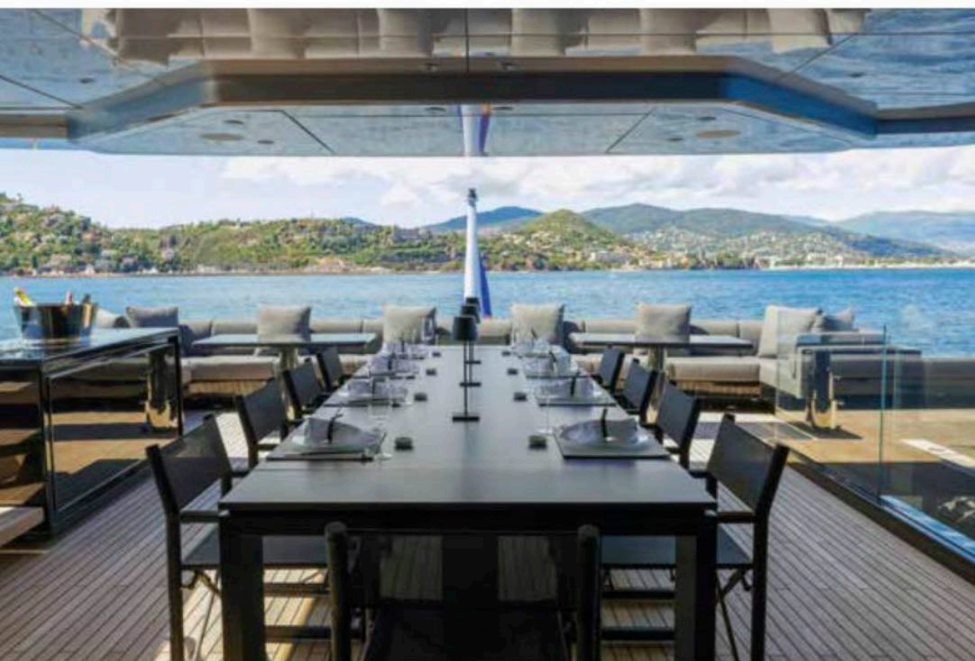
A close-up of the fly deck with its nicely shaded bar. The furnished exterior areas, which are on every deck, have a contemporary vibe that chimes beautifully with the minimal styling and colour palette of the interiors. Black, grey and oak were the colours selected by American studio Casa Dio, which crafted the interior design in collaboration with the yard's own Style Centre. The owner's personal designer designed and supplied of the limited edition furniture aboard. Opening pages: the rigorous, clean, contemporary exterior design of Olokun





A forward view of the salon on the main deck: a truly immense, refined lounge area dedicated to relaxation and conversation. The owner chose to have the dining area to the upper deck with one table indoors and another in the aft al fresco area (below, left).

All of the fabrics used aboard Olokun are by Loro Piana. Centre and right, two exclusive outdoor "corners" dedicated to sunning and relaxing: the stern platform with its chaises longues and sun umbrellas and the panoramic pool on the fly





Powered by a traditional diesel set-up, Olokun has a top speed of 17.5 knots and cruising one of 14. The third example in the aluminium series designed by Francesco Paszkowski and the fifth design in the Tankoa fleet, Olokun was sold in March 2020 with the assistance of Fernando Nicholson of Camper & Nicholson's and delivered to her owner at the end of 2020. The foredeck "lounge" is a charmingly intimate outpost that can even be enjoyed in berth.



## Exterior Design

### Francesco Paszkowski Design

The exterior lines and layout were crafted to deliver a rigorous stylistic coherency with a clean, contemporary look: the plumb bow which helps create more interior volume, all fresco communal areas on every deck and indoor spaces that communicate very intimately with the exterior, thanks to large windows and lower bulwarks on the sides which free up the visual. Compared to previous Tankoas, we turbocharged the dimensions in all the all fresco areas, starting with the aft cockpit, one of my favourite spots, where guests sitting on the sofa in the shade enjoy unparalleled views, and going all the way to every sunning and conversation area aboard. Another signature, already introduced in various sizes and numbers on Vertige and Bintador, is the side balconies for the master suite forward, which enjoys an incredible amount of daylight, in part because of its upward-opening windows. Furthermore, the main deck is entirely devoted to day use as the dining area has been moved to the upper deck. There

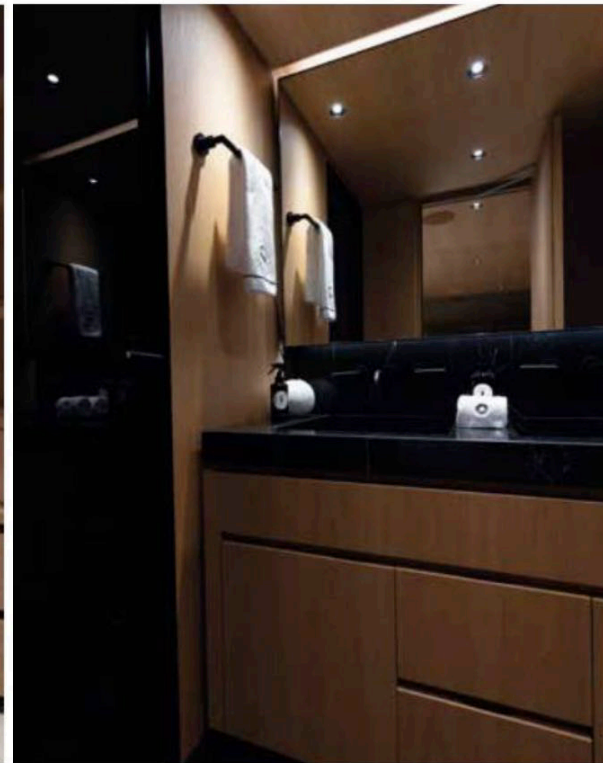
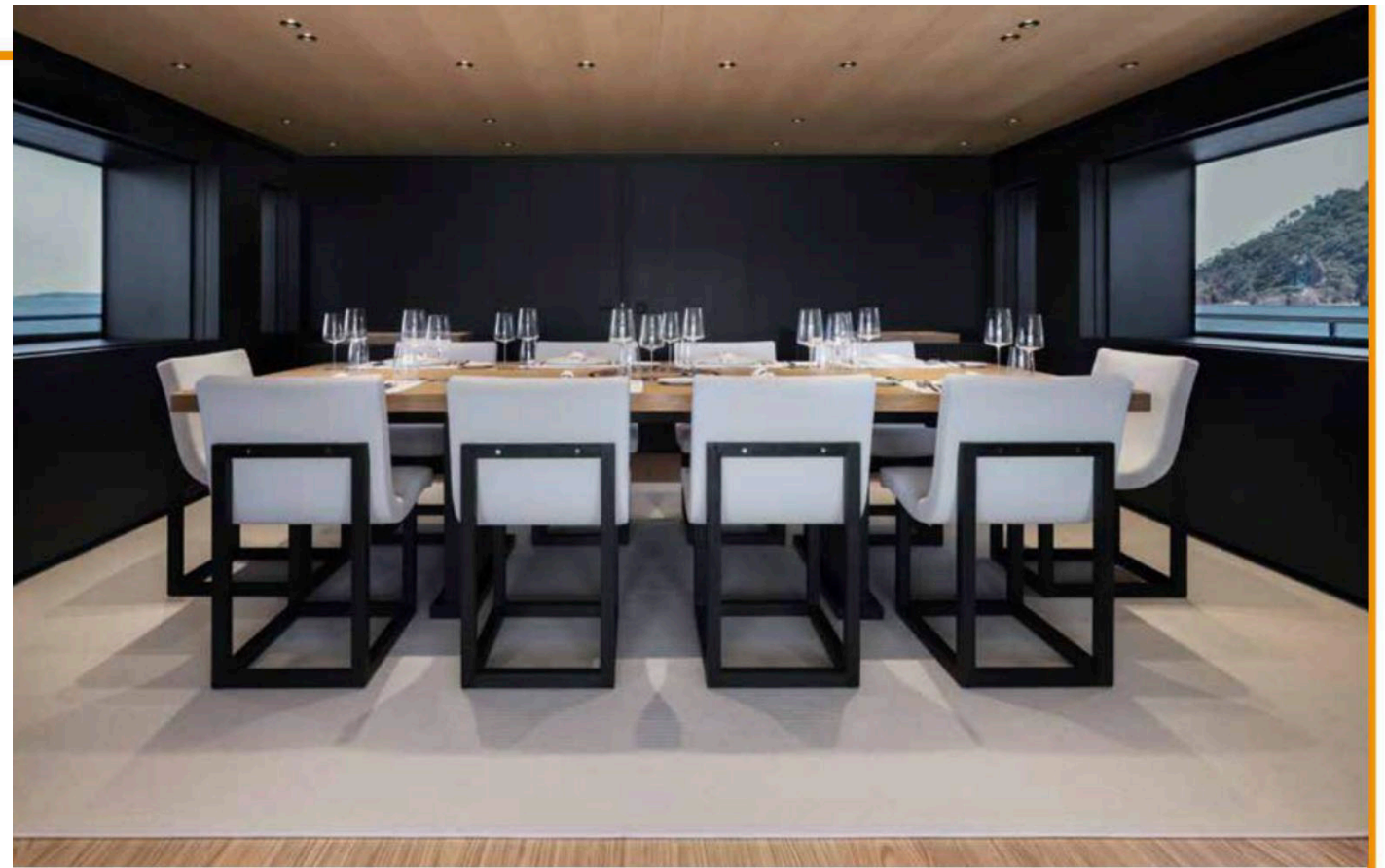


are also several elements more obviously traceable to the Tankoa family feeling: from the powerful stern to the dynamism of the lines, the compact look of the superstructure on the water, the balance of the window geometries and the vertical lines of the window posts and overhangs on the aft decks. The overall vision has had a clear impact on the yacht's character, with the yard making a fundamental contribution through the support it provided at every stage of the process and the level of accuracy it displayed in even the smallest detail. The solutions that best reflect our studio's vision are definitely stylistic coherency, a must for every design project, contemporary styling, the power and dynamism of the lines, which is pretty obvious even at anchor, the uninterrupted dialogue between exterior and interiors, and the brightness of the latter.



## Interior Design Dio Rodriguez CEO of Casa Dio

The owner absolutely wanted a hammam, lounge and relaxation area as close as possible to the ocean. Which led to the challenge of working within the 50 metres to create a bigger beach club. In order to make the owner's requirements a reality, we transformed the beach club space to create the hammam. We also converted the tender garage, turning it into a lounge where the owners would find an additional area for relaxation. This also meant we were able to exceed the owner's expectations. Another of the owner's must-haves was to make the main salon as large as possible, which is why we decided to modify the architectural framework, and to move the dining room to the upper deck. As we already knew from our experience, boat interiors are often quite small and we always suggest to owners that we create environments that are as open as possible so they can enjoy the views and the interiors at the same time. We wanted a sense of coherency between interiors and exterior. So we innovated through our unexpected choice of exterior black paint along with the unusual minimal,



Above, the 10-seater dining area on the upper deck. There is also a second table in the al fresco aft area on the same deck. Below, a guest bathroom and (left) one of the two VIP staterooms – there are also two further double staterooms for guests. The yacht is customised down to very small details including the size of the ceiling panels which had to measure exactly 2 x 1 metres, and in very precise level of gloss of some of the black wood sections

contemporary use of interior finishes and furniture. Very large 164m black hulls are not at all common! When it came to Olokun's aesthetic, we were really inspired by minimal Japanese ambiances. The use of neutral colours throughout for the cabinetry and furnishings created striking contrasts and a timeless quality. We focused on making the entire interior of the boat convey a sense of residential life by reflecting the exterior and transforming the interior into a complete nautical experience. Olokun is a project in which Casa Dio focused on developing both interiors and furniture design specifically for the owners, using woods as colours and modern furniture. All the furniture was designed and made in our atelier by craftsmen who have dedicated their lives to custom furniture.

### Giuseppe Mazza, Tankoa Yachts Sales and Marketing Manager



**D**elivered at the end of 2020, construction on the yacht began on spec. When we sold her in March 2020, she was 50-60% built. The owner's representative, his right-hand man, is also the interior designer and essentially had carte blanche. The first must-have was the black livery for the hull and the metallic grey for the superstructure: a serious challenge for us because the yacht was at an advanced stage in her construction. So we had to prepare sheets of metal especially to check which type of paint worked best and then to see whether there were newer or technologically superior formulations on the market to those previously used. That was how we came to opt for new generation high performance Awl Grip (Awl Craft, blackjet LSA) which, because of its composition, guaranteed that the black would overheat by a good 10 or so degrees. We also painted the owner's 15m in the same colour so that it could be used as a chase boat to Olokun. The yacht wasn't built specifically for charter but it was designed so that, if it were sold one day, it could easily slot into the charter circuit. The private office connecting to the suite was only requested by the owner after the cabling had already been done as per the original design, so it could be turned into a sixth cabin with bathroom by closing off the communicating door and adapting the furnishings. Another unusual feature is the garage, which because it wouldn't have to be used for a traditional tender, was kitted out as a "noble" area: an extension in luxe wood of the beach club that can be used as a lounge, spa or gym. Once again, it could still be used as a garage by removing the ceiling and flooring to allow the use of a telescopic crane, which is hidden right now, and launch a future tender.

Despite the fact that the supply chain ground to a halt for two months because of the Covid pandemic (the sale was closed just before it took hold in Europe), the yard still managed to deliver Olokun before the end of 2020 in line with Tankoa's policy of always providing set-in-stone delivery dates



## IN SEARCH OF PERFECTION

Creating luxury bed linen using sartorial methods for over 20 years, pleasing even the world's most demanding clientele. The secret? Obsessive precision and driving passion

by Marta Bernasconi - ph. courtesy by Michela Nicoli

Creating select products for a demanding clientele seeking beauty and exclusivity is in the Tuscan brand's DNA. Based in Pistoia, it is a benchmark for companies producing high-end textiles for yachts, residences and hotels. The founder and driving spirit behind the company is Michela Nicoli, who boasts a heritage of experience that is unusual in this sector. "As a young woman, I was asked to join Pratesi, an illustrious company that was market leader in the manufacture of refined bed linen, creating a range of wonderful products. I was export manager for many years, and this experience enabled me to develop a profound knowledge of the highest levels of the bed linen world". When, more than 20 years ago, she decided to launch her brand, Michela Nicoli knew exactly what she wanted. "I had learnt a lot about clients' tastes and requirements. I wanted to create and run a niche company where everything is Made in Italy, a little gem that enables me to exert total control over the entire production process, because you can only achieve perfection by monitoring every stage yourself, from yarn to

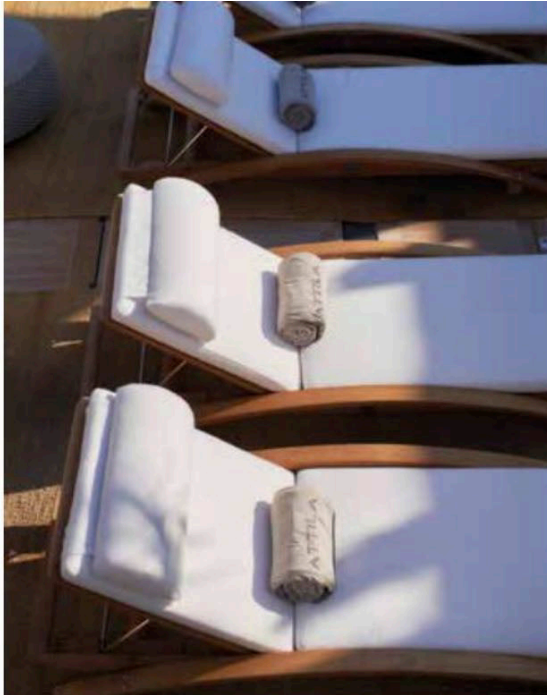
Michela Nicoli's client portfolio includes owners of large luxury yachts and the most important yards. Above: decoration items on board the 107 m Benetti IJE. Right: complete supply for the 72 m Tankoa SOLO Yacht, and decorative cushions





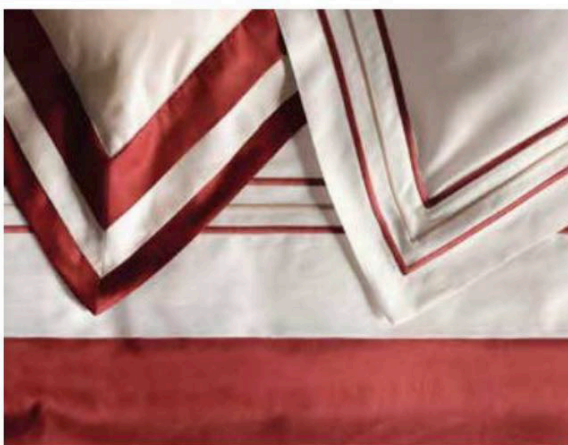
## [ BESPOKE ]

ironing. The tight delivery deadlines can also be managed in comfort if you can oversee every stage from up close. We hand over the various artisanal production stages to trusted collaborators we have a daily relationship with. All this generates good results – although the requirements we're faced with can sometimes be tough, we've never had any negative comeback". The brand's commitment to bespoke production has existed from the very beginning. Over the course of 23 years the company has been involved with over 220 yachts, creating unique pieces for each one. "Companies usually work from collections, and generally stick to them. For every new project we, on the other hand, put together an offer including a prototype, a finished product. This enables clients to see what the final product will look like, how it fits in to the space created by the interior designer and the owner's requirements. It's an expensive method, but it works, our clients are always highly satisfied". Although firmly convinced



Bed, bath, table and outdoor linen on board the 64 m Sanlorenzo Attila (above).  
Left and bottom: decorations and upholstery pieces for the cinema on board the Benetti IJE. Over the course of 23 years the company has been involved with over 220 yachts, creating unique pieces for each one

of the matchless quality offered by some materials, like the lovely percale that is cool in summer and warm in winter, Michela Nicoli loves new products, and she is the first to test them. "Every week I try out a new product on my bed. At the moment, for example, I've started to use some wonderfully soft, pleasant linens, and an eco-sustainable wood fibre. We're also taking a look at hemp. I think it's important for me to use and experience things, and when a client asks for a different type of product I try it out personally". Inquisitive and open to new sources of inspiration, Michela Nicoli feeds her imagination through travel, visiting the world's most beautiful hotels, which provide examples of all that's best in style and welcome. She also visits art exhibitions and Florence itself to nurture the brand's creativity. As well as producing luxury bed linen, her brand also includes an interior decoration division.  
[www.michelanicoli.com](http://www.michelanicoli.com)



## 5 QUESTIONS TO... MICHELA NICOLI

### FOUNDER AND OWNER

#### *What are the distinctive features of the Michela Nicoli style?*

"International" is a bit of a buzz word at the moment, but I don't think that or "bespoke" or "custom-made" really cover it fully. Personalising our products and making them fit our clients' tastes or the project requirements specified by the interior designer, clothing spaces in our soft creations is part of our character. Stylistically, we believe in the power of the understated elegance of simplicity.

#### *Which articles can be seen as timeless classics?*

Tone-on-tone embroidery with restrained colours like pure white, ivory and beige, combined with refined fabrics with ever higher thread counts, which are a feature of high-quality bed linen, remain evergreens. In the yacht world, softer, increasingly high-performance towelling tops the list of demands.

#### *How do you manage to create an exclusive product made especially for a client?*

Mainly by listening to the interior designer or the client. We try to establish an immediate empathy that enables us to transform what is still an idea into a reality that our experience can turn into a finished product. We're always looking for innovation – in hotels, while we're travelling, from our suppliers. Wherever we are we seek out "signs" that will become our alphabet, enabling us to compose unique, competitive projects.

#### *How has the brand evolved in recent years?*

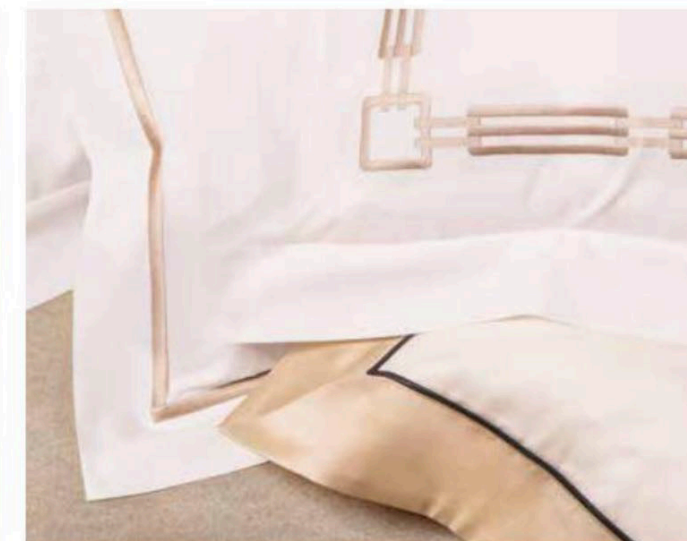
Over the last 10 years we've started to expand our offer by supplying decorative elements, cushions, plaids, rugs, indoor and outdoor furnishings and all the complements need for the final fitting-out in the spaces on a yacht or in a residence or hotel.

#### *What are you working on at the moment?*

We're involved in wonderful, complex bed linen and decoration projects, with our selection of objects. Taken together they form an all-round interior project. As well as new commissions we continue to work with yards and owners from all over the world, many of whom come back to us even after a period of years, renewing their loyalty by purchasing furniture and accessories fittings for new yachts or their homes.



Below, from left: Kelly set with applied border on sateen cotton and embroidered pillowcases in percale. Based in Pistoia, the company produces high-end textiles for yachts, residences and hotels



[ MUST-HAVES ]



An aerial view (above) emphasises the many open-air spaces, with lounge, sunpads and relaxation area. The flybridge is designed to be equipped according to the owner's requirements. The Endurance 60's interior layout includes the owner's suite, two guest cabins (below, right) and three bathrooms

