

THE YACHT

report

The leading magazine for the design, construction,
management, ownership & operation of luxury yachts

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Synfo Extras (www.synfo.com)

Shadow Yachts – The full text of the technical paper presented at RINA

AV-IT Convergence from Kezia – author biography, company background and megayacht references
Jade 95 and Belle IIIe - further images, GAs and specifications of the two yachts

Lowering VOC approaches – The full paper on the solution proposed by ICOMIA

Extra on Australia – interviews and further information of Tork's visit to the region

To See and Be Seen

A NEW WAY TO LIGHT
THE SUPERYACHT



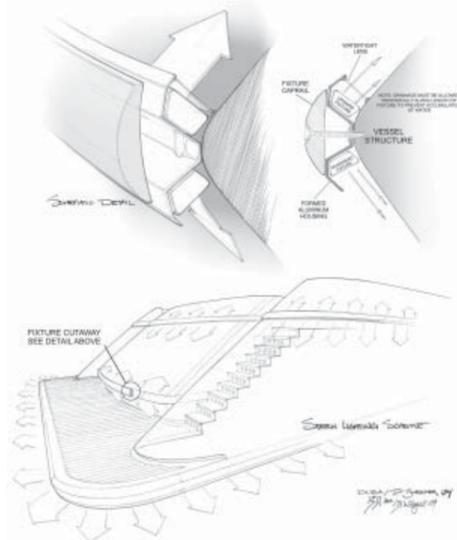
Superyachts are some of the most heavily “designed” items on the planet; especially their exterior form and lines. The beauty of those often disappear into the night or are so ill lit – and with little consideration for the shape to be illuminated – that one might prefer anonymity. This is the contention of Beatrice Witzgall, of I3D, Inc – Lighting Design Consultants. Here she explains another way, both conceptually and in practical hardware terms, to flatter and display the ultimate possession. She does so through a case study of the work carried out on a 60m, 30-knot yacht project from the design studio of Donald L. Blount and Associates Inc.

EVERY YACHT IS AN EXPRESSION OF A UNIQUE LIFESTYLE and status, a showcase of an owner's individuality and personality. Exterior night lighting creates a signature, revealing a yacht's iconic character. While almost every detail and material is customised on most yachts, lighting is frequently ignored. When the sun sets and the lights are turned on, one will find the most generic illumination, often using outdated lighting technologies. Repetition and similarity are common. Even the most beautifully designed yachts may use the same 200 or even 500 downlights, creating undesirable scallops on walls and bright contrast spots on floors. Elsewhere aboard Chinatown style ropelights create dot reflections with too strong cut-off lines on refined custom surfaces rather than a lighting effect that fades smoothly out. Even a cosy corner restaurant is likely to have more sophisticated lighting than some of the most extravagant and expensive luxury yachts.

Lighting is so much more than just the functional task of providing illumination. Lighting design is an integral part of any architectural project, and should never be considered a mere afterthought, especially when it comes to yachting, where mood and texture are essential to experience. Lighting ensures the 'right' feel for the atmosphere in any space and brings out the individual characteristics of architectural features such as shape, form and material. Lighting brings depth and texture to a space in the same way that shadow accentuates the volume and curves of a sculpture: light sculpts space, revealing the art behind construction. It animates space. Sophisticated lighting creates the unique and comprehensive identity of an exterior and interior environment, and is a medium to express the owner's personality.

In collaboration with Donald L. Blount and Associates, we developed a lighting scheme for their innovative high-performance 30-knot, 60m motoryacht, that integrates architectural lighting strategies into the early phases of the design process. This created solutions that enabled us to develop unique identities, perception and perspectives for the project. Some of the following lighting techniques are also being implemented on other projects currently under construction.

Yacht exteriors provide great potential for innovation yet very little stands out at nighttime on most of them. The hours that exterior stylists spend on creating signature shapes disappear into darkness. Often, the bow line of the yacht – maybe one third of the LOA – is not illuminated at all, causing the size and presence of the yacht to vanish. On DLBA's 60m M/Y, we integrated a structural reveal, putting a linear resin-encased, high-power LED striplight fixture with narrow beam optics in a pocket housing on the exterior hull, grazing the hull surface and accentuating exterior characteristic shapes of the yacht, thus revealing its style and volume. We also considered a careful balance for the surface finishes: matte finishes, for example carry the light further, accentuating design features and reducing reflective glare.



We carried the concept of indirect and horizontal lighting throughout the whole yacht to create a more aerodynamic, elongated look and introducing a hierarchy of lighting layers and treatments. Linear light sources emphasise the sense of continuity and flow, as opposed to trite, triangular downlight wall scallops that break down any sense of shape, continuity or volume. A well-designed space creates a balance between direct and indirect lighting layers. A multitude of lamp sources and types, brightness and contrast levels, and their locations improve lighting quality immensely to create refined lighting scenarios. This strongly enhances comfort and mood in the space.

A slight and sensitive indirectly applied colour change can subtly and invisibly influence any mood, whereas when colour is applied as a direct visible glow, it can be as loud and flashy as a Las Vegas or Times Square sign

We integrated indirect linear lighting as a "grazing" application into the exterior, emphasising the horizontal bands (hull, superstructure, mast, and transom). Additionally, we created a low-level layer focusing on the horizontal surfaces such as floors, steps and even the shimmer on the water (located in the furniture, railing, stair steps and swim platform). We also considered the exterior-interior relationship by incorporating window treatments into the exterior perception. We integrated a colour-changing linear uplight inside, creating an indirect ambient illumination around the windows and ceiling, both inside and outside via indirect reflection. This layer playfully interacts with the shades, transforming the lighting effect at different times.

On the entertainment deck, we separated lighting into different zones and groups for the various scenarios: during dinner a removable pendant above the table is installed to provide a comfortable and bright dining experience comparable to a hearth-like setting. The pendant is designed either as a glowing element, or solely providing illumination of the tabletop. The pendant provides a soft glow that flatters charming company, whereas hard downlight shadows create a ghost-like effect, especially around the eyes, and should be avoided. Peripheral lighting



is bright enough to balance out the contrast, but not so overpowering that it distracts from the table setting. We added glowing elements into the space for warm direct illumination and to increase brightness levels, if desired. These elements can be integrated into furniture, like our proposed glowing horizontal band that supports the directional and aerodynamic lighting concept, or as individual objects, such as glowing seating or table elements. After dining for a relaxing lounge atmosphere, we focused on low level lighting. Lighting is integrated below eye level to ensure that no glare or brightness distracts from the surrounding ambience, and becomes dimmer as the night progresses and the eye adjusts to the night setting.

Depending on a desired mood, modern LED technology provides dimmable coloured effects that support the intended atmosphere, such as a transformation from a bright white to warm sunset amber and midnight blue for an intimate setting. In our yacht example, we were inspired by the Bordeaux-coloured hull to introduce a sensuous red glow as a colour changing option to create an overall matching, as well as a speedy and aggressive look for this 30-knot fast yacht. A slight and sensitive indirectly applied colour change can subtly and invisibly influence any mood, whereas when colour is applied as a direct visible glow, it can be as loud and flashy as a Las Vegas or Times Square sign. To determine how a given colour lighting technique should be applied demands sensitivity on the part of the lighting designer in understanding what an owner is really looking for in the desired identity.

Dynamic lighting concepts support the versatility of many functions and user scenarios, ranging from fancy cocktail parties, to intimate dinners, to

ISSUES & OPINIONS – LIGHTING DESIGN

leisurely lounge time. Sometimes a yacht wants to be seen, to be visible and extroverted in the harbours and marinas of the world, and other times it wants to stay quiet, seductive, introverted and elegant. Sophisticated lighting considers function, but also changes throughout the night to adapt to different ambient lighting conditions. At sunset, daylight is still bright and the darkness of the interior and shadows must be balanced with artificial lighting. At dinner time the illumination focuses on the table setting while for late night drinks under the sparkling stars, ambient lighting with barely any direct lighting sources must be dimmed down to be able to bring forth the subtle reflections of the surrounding water shimmer.

A yacht has a refined identity; artistically designed lighting reflects the function and purpose of an environment, and transforms to fit a space in any condition. Mood and atmosphere are essential factors that create beauty and identity. Lighting is an essential tool and conduit for any spatial experiences. LEDs are an emerging lighting technology that is perfectly suited to these innovative lighting strategies. Not only are they energy-efficient, low in energy consumption, light in weight, sleek, small, durable and long-lasting, but can be encased in resin, providing strong protection against the harsh marine-environment. Above all,



when effectively integrated into a yacht design they enable dynamic colour-changes. The LED fixtures themselves offer a completely different aesthetic look, since they are arranged in clusters or in a linear strip, significantly differing from traditional light sources. They are perfect for indirect lighting approaches in tight spaces, and their rapid innovation cycle means constant improvement.

Introducing established architectural lighting strategies to the yachting industry creates an exciting potential for stunning new designs. A deeper understanding of space can combine with emerging lighting technologies to revolutionise yacht lighting for future constructions. Emotional and unique approaches to yacht lighting put a signature stamp on both form and function, and add sophistication to luxury.

Beatrice Witzgall (Lighting Design Consultant), I3D, Inc
Renderings by DLBA & I3D, Inc – Anna Muslimova

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