

The 45m  
McMullen  
& Wing  
Big Fish



# The next generation

The idea was simple: commission three leading design firms to dream up the future of explorer yachting and take the concepts around the world. Welcome to the wildest road trip in boat design



Next generation: three new concepts

Miami

*“Building a yacht is a process to love, so a big part of the roadshow is designers communicating their personalities, not just their designs”*

One brief, three countries, four designers, seven concepts and a shipyard: not a Hollywood production, but the brainchild of Michael Eaglen, CEO of Kiwi boatbuilder McMullen & Wing. When he wanted a new range of superyachts to pitch to the market, he asked Vripack, Greg Marshall and H2 Yacht Design to design them. In a world first, he then took the designers on a tour of the superyachting hubs of London, Monaco and Miami to help him pitch the concepts to

brokers holding phones bulging with owner contacts. But why go to all the effort?

“We wanted to reinforce the importance of the designer and the designer’s personality in the custom yacht process,” explains Eaglen. “If you just say [to owners], ‘This is the yard and this is the design,’ it becomes very transactional. Building a yacht is a process to love and really get involved in. So a big part of the roadshow is bringing along the designers and having them communicate their personalities, not just their designs.”



Each of the yachts designed by the firms had to maintain the shipyard’s DNA and be serious, capable explorers, able to sail in comfort from Auckland to Monaco. They had to be practical to reflect the environments in which they’d end up, but also supremely luxurious to appeal to a selective clientele. In short, they had to take many of the elements of the superb McMullen & Wing 45m Big Fish, and advance the concept – but in a design language distinct to each of the firms chosen.



H2's Blade concept features big tenders for exploration, flexible interior spaces and large exterior decks

**“The millennial owner has a lot of friends and wants to go cruising and do fun stuff”**



## The millennial market

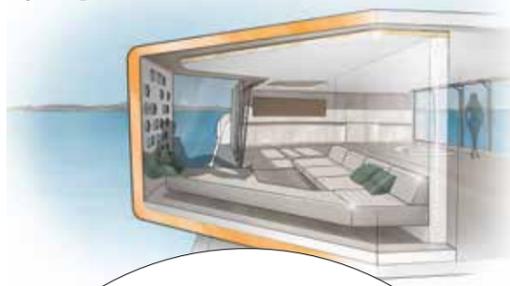
Dutch firm Vripack can always be relied upon to deliver fresh thinking – and their Flow concepts, at 44m and 51m, don't disappoint. “We designed the boat around the millennial owner,” says creative director Marnix Hoekstra. “He might not be married, but he might have kids. He has a lot of friends and he wants to go cruising and do fun stuff. He wants to go surfing, but in a place you can't get to in a plane. He's not bothered by ‘a layout should look like this’, ‘a boat should look like that’. Most likely he's saying he's not inspired by the boats already out there, because he's seen it already and wants to do something else.”

This approach led Hoekstra and fellow creative director Bart Bouwhuis to design concepts where the view is king. On the larger 51m version, this has resulted in an aft winter garden separate from the rest of the boat, offering panoramic views out over the water. But both boats share arguably the standout feature: mirrored gull-wing lookouts on the

bridge deck, which are both an intimate nook and a superb viewing platform. Sharing the same deck is what Vripack is calling the “treasure room”, designed to display the objects collected on the yacht's imagined world cruise, and also offering wider views over the world thanks to floor-to-ceiling glass and slender carbon mullions.

The look of the Flow series is made even more distinct by perforations in the hull and superstructure. Rather than giving the shipyard a headache, these have been designed to be 3D printed. The distinct line around the yacht's exterior, meanwhile, comes from a trend called layering, according to Bouwhuis. It's this feature, which flows around the designs, that gives the concepts their name. “It gives the yacht a very strong, unique look,” Hoekstra adds.

Viewing platform: on every deck, Vripack has packed in places to stop and stare



## The crossover yacht

H2 Yacht Design's concepts comprise a 48m and 58m, code-named Blade. “I had a pretty clear idea of the direction I wanted to go,” Jonny Horsfield, owner and design director of the firm, says. “I'm comfortable in my Mediterranean market, maybe the more mainstream market and I was quite conscious I wanted to stay in that.”

But the boat still had to cross over to appeal to a more adventurous owner, says Horsfield. “It could be a Med boat, sat in Monaco, but it could also go to Tahiti and be independent on its own.” On the smaller 710GT boat the main deck has been left open as a large entertaining, lounging space, with formal dining moved upstairs. This has created a vast area for playing, while levels have been used cleverly: down a few steps into the calm, relaxing lounge, and up a few steps into the formal dining area on the upper deck.

“The main saloon is more of a day lounge,” says Horsfield. “A formal main saloon looks great in pictures and the occasional cocktail party in Monaco, but the rest of the time it isn't used.” On the larger design, at 1,060GT, the main deck keeps its dining area, but it's a more intimate spot, with the formal entertainment intended for upstairs on the upper aft deck.

The décor on both boats is supremely casual, with the wooden floors designed to be walked on with wet feet, and big sliding doors promoting an inside/outside lifestyle. Huge pools are a feature, with the one on the 48m yacht especially impressive, surrounded as it is by lots of deck and seating, making it feel like a much larger yacht. The lack of formality throughout both designs should appeal to younger owners keen to test their yacht's mettle, and they'll be able to: both have ranges of 5,800nm at cruising speeds.

**“It could be a Med boat, sat in Monaco, but it could also go to Tahiti and be independent”**



**“I got a chance to spend time on Big Fish and develop the ideas more, so these designs are the evolutions of my perfect boat”**



Greg Marshall has developed the space planning of the Diamond concept and softened the styling with natural materials

## Building on a classic



Greg Marshall's concepts, named Diamond – at 45m, 50m and 55m – all follow the lines of his previous McMullen & Wing project, 45m *Big Fish*. “The original ideas for *Big Fish* were kind of selfish: what would be my perfect boat?” he says. “Then I got a chance to spend a lot of time on the yacht and develop the ideas more, so these designs are the evolutions of my perfect boat.”

The 45m is “basically an improved version of *Big Fish*,” according to the Canadian designer. One big change has been made to the beach club, which has become much more of a feature space, with a large opening transom door and big windows. But that outstanding owner's deck at the top of the

yacht remains, with its aft-facing bed overlooking an expanse of deck – and the sea beyond.

The 50m comes in at 750GT, so 50 per cent bigger than the smaller boat, and sits on another level in terms of luxury and space. A lift whisks guests through the boat, but the big feature is locating all the guest bedrooms on the lower deck aft, giving them direct access to the beach club and bathing platform. An owner's cabin on the 45m becomes an owner's apartment on the 50m, with an option to turn almost the whole upper deck into an exclusive enclave. Whoever gets the main deck VIP cabin won't be complaining, though, with the athwartships berth offering views through huge windows.

