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Kathrin Haak
maritim & interior design
Businesswoman Of The Month

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Orhidea Briegel
Editor IMAGE Business-Mag presents...

Seen Through **The Lens**

The interiors of all the yachts I have ever seen were either designed for functionality, with all the charm of a camper van, or fitted out very much in the classical mould, with dark teak, bulky furniture, and nautical accessories in gleaming brass. As I was to find out from yacht designer Kathrin Haak, whose work takes her all over the world, there is a whole other kind of yacht out there – one that inspired a passion in me for all things maritime. In a special edition due out in August, the sought – after designer will take us on a tour of the luxury world of yachting and sea life. *Read more about the special edition in the centre of the magazine.* Orhidea Briegel, Editor



”Both sail yachts an motor yachts hold a particular fascination for me, since the elegance and swiftness with which they are associated make a big impression on me. The interior of a yacht is its ‘soul’, and the style of the interior space always represents the personal tastes of its owner, in terms of which materials are used and which individual details are emphasised. In many cases, apart from the mega-yachts that are over 50 metres long, this aspect is neglected”, Kathrin Haak told me animatedly. The yacht specialist continued: “When devising a contemporary concept for an interior, form and materials are not the only important aspects – the demands of the owner in terms of how the space will be used also play a major role. For example, the yacht could be used for representation or for business receptions, or the owner might contemplate using it more for private purposes.”

My interest was piqued. “What does such a modern concept of space look like?”, I asked the maritime enthusiast. She showed me one of her current projects – a design of the interior for an Italian yacht that is being reconvered. “As you can see from the previous layout, the space is arranged in a relatively cramped and crooked way. Aside from the conventional configuration, life inside the yacht is relatively dark (old layout, diagram at bottom of right- hand page).” The design she has been working on then appears on the screen of her CAD system. “The concept offers generous living spaces, with the lounge and the living and dining room forming the central area and providing an informal atmosphere in which to relax. The spaces, and to some extent the furniture, are defined by curves and wave shapes. The entire interior architecture is characterised by flowing shapes and attempts to avoid straight lines as much as possible.”

”I can see you’ve divided the space up differently.”
“Exactly. The yacht now has a capacious owner suite that stretches across the entire width of the ship. A guest cabin provides room for 3 guests an can itself be divided up further in different ways. The elegance and luxury even extend to the bathroom – the owner suite and guest cabin are each fitted with their own

bath and their own individually accessible dressing room.”

Kathrin Haak has now built up an unstoppable head of steam in her description. “Furniture and room elements blend seamlessly together – in the owner suite the bed’s leather trim continues onto the floor surface to ensure that no furniture is placed in the suite that does not belong there. Dark walnut wood, fitted to accentuate the décor, runs consistently through all the rooms like a leitmotiv in a composition. The impression given by the rooms is one of atmosphere, e.g. the white walls of the owner suite covered with finely perforated leather provide background lighting an generate a warm light. The furniture suite, at the centre of the yacht, is ideally adapted to any individual use- whether for meal occasions or for a laid-back, communicative lounge atmosphere.”

”I see that you don’t even have to miss out on your TV-watching.”

“Highlights of the interior space include sophisticated solutions such as the plasma TV, which rotates so that it can be directed at and operated from both the owner suite an the bathroom”, the designer says to wrap up her tour.

”Last but not least, the demands that today’s yachts make on multifunctionality are more than just standard. The entire maintenance and control equipment is integrated into one centralised, user-friendly tool in the main cabin. Maintenance electronics, TV, light or air conditioning controls – all user panels can, at the touch of a button, be concealed discreetly and elegantly behind a retractable facing that is seamlessly integrated into the wall.”

Enough to make anyone eager to experience such a breadth of luxury, an the breadth of the ocean waves.

Orhidea

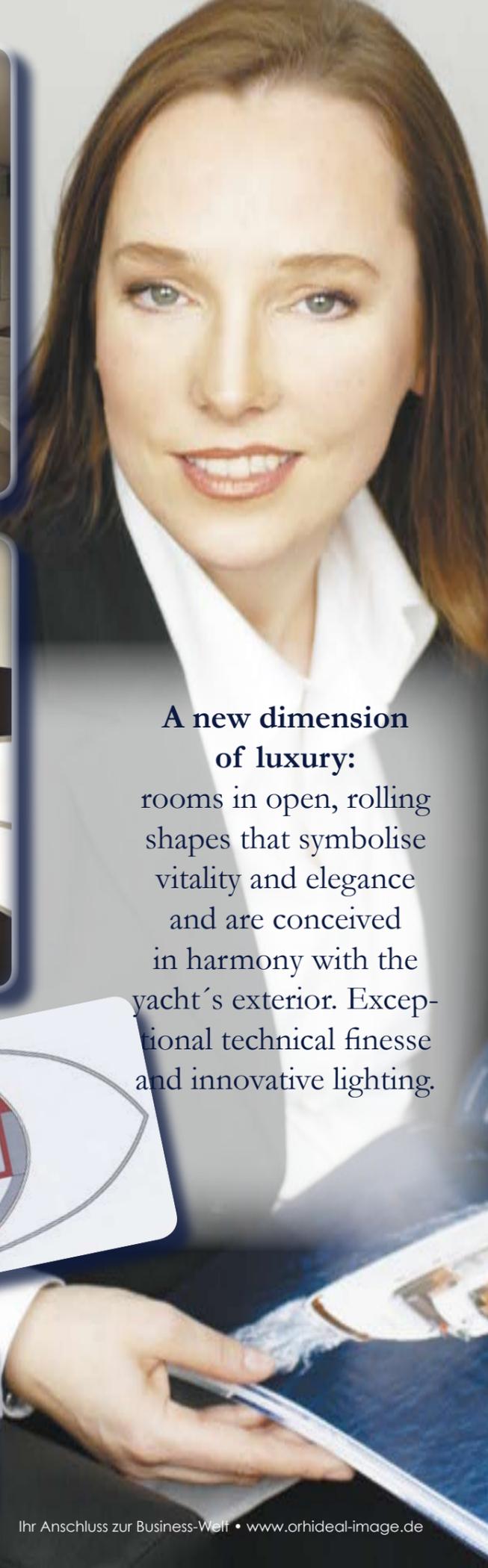
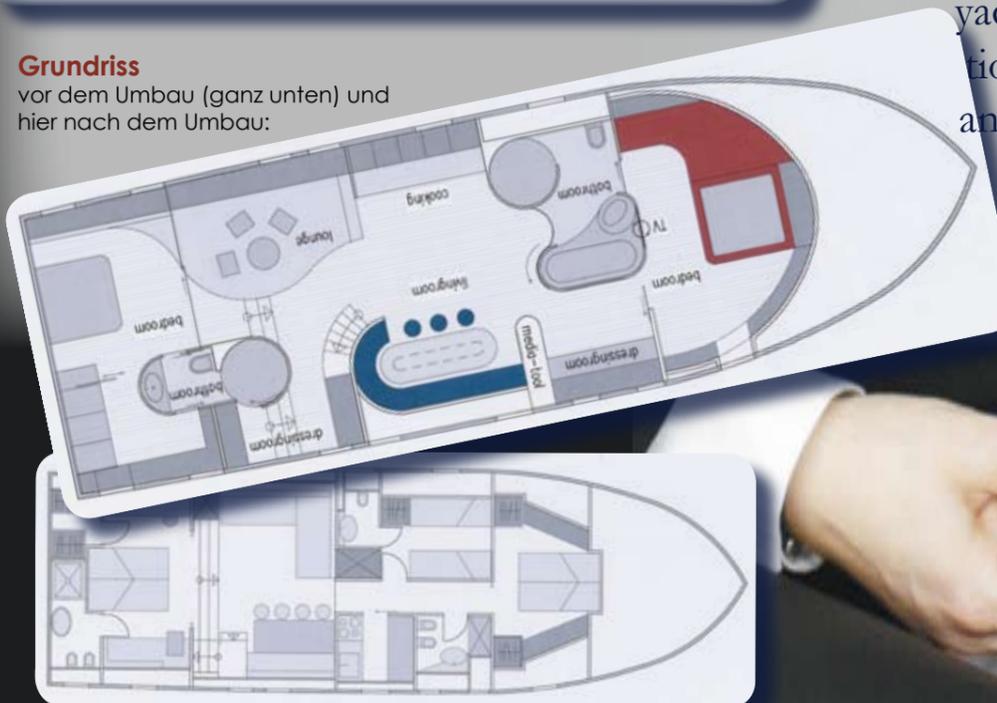
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A new dimension of luxury: rooms in open, rolling shapes that symbolise vitality and elegance and are conceived in harmony with the yacht’s exterior. Exceptional technical finesse and innovative lighting.