



BLACKBEARD

Naval architect Sergio Cutolo of Hydro Tec is something of an explorer specialist having designed, among others, the Naumachos and Darwin series of pocket explorers and numerous other expedition-style concepts. The Blackbeard concept presents a rugged and seaworthy vessel.

Fifty-seven-metre Blackbeard is equipped with all the amenities, tenders and toys required for global voyaging. A five-deck displacement yacht, she has a transoceanic range of 5,500nm at a cruising speed of 13 knots. With classic, yet modern exterior lines by Hydro Tec and interior styling by Umberto Fossati, what distinguishes this go-anywhere motoryacht is its ship-like general arrangement, which offers an efficient layout and multifunctional spaces both inside and outside.

The enclosed trunking for the stairway on the main aft deck, for example, provides protected access to the beach club, with a gym and massage room on the lower deck. Either side of the trunk on the main deck aft are outward-facing lounge areas and a bar unit overlooking the transom. Forward of these are two bays for tenders of up to eight metres. By eliminating the beach club, the tenders and toys can be housed in a garage at lower-deck level, but stowing them on deck means they can be deployed quickly and this frees up interior space for guest use.

The main deck is devoted to a large salon, galley and two forward VIP suites with their own private lounge. The remaining four en-suite guest cabins are on the lower deck. As you

would expect on a yacht of this volume, the crew areas are completely independent of the guest spaces.

The upper deck features a touch-and-go helipad with access to the dining room/sky lounge, which is arranged along the centreline and faces outward to take in the sea views. This layout provides a central walkway and uninterrupted access between the aft deck and the central lobby. The forward section is devoted to the master suite with owner's study, enormous walk-in wardrobe, and panoramic suite forward and private exterior lounge on the foredeck.

The sundeck, accessible by exterior or interior staircase (a lift serves all but the sundeck), offers an inside-outside bar that looks out on to a four-metre-long pool and sunbathing area. The sundeck features shaded dining facilities for 12 guests, an open-air lounge area and another bar. A crow's nest adds the crowning touch to the yacht.

The designers have not lost sight of the fact that this is an explorer vessel. Covered exterior stairways, decent-sized tenders and flexible spaces make this a no-nonsense, long-range vessel adapted for all climates without sacrificing comfort and style.

