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70m Explorer Yacht sketch © Hydro Tec

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What are the essential elements in the design of an Explorer? The ones that brings on board the sense of "exploring"?

"Free man, you will always cherish the sea!" This is a very respectable opinion by Charles Baudelaire who clearly reflects the idea of freedom as strictly connected to the sea, to sailing in the immense sea. I think that one of the main aspects you expect to find in an Explorer Yacht is that special feeling of safety that makes you really wish to cross the ocean. You cannot say exactly what it is, but when you get on board you feel like starting a new life of adventures around the world; maybe this is because your feet walk on a steel deck, covered with thick teak planks, maybe because the walkaround is comfortable and high enough to make you feel adequately sheltered from the ocean waves. It is because everything you touch is giving you the feeling of strength and durability, it is because the big and powerful tender is just letting you imagine remote beaches to explore or because the garage full of toys will surely provide fun and entertainment to all guests. And then you reach your spacious cabin and you immediately feel that all the external world has been left behind you, the thick hull sides sheltering you from noise and waves. In the meantime, the yacht is leaving the harbor and while the chef is cooking your dinner in the ample and comfortable galley, the stewardess is preparing your cabin for the night: tomorrow you will wake up in a new wonderful island. And the engineer will check all machineries in the big and well laid out engine room. And the exploration continues...

The "journey": how can design improve the adventure?

A true Explorer Yacht should incorporate some very particular features. The journey itself will be a very important part of the cruise, not a simple transfer but part of the enjoyment. The design of the yacht must consider this element. This will happen in different ways. Spaces must be designed and dimensioned considering long periods at sea, even in rough conditions because restricted spaces may cause discomfort among the guests. Huge space must be dedicated to the storage of provisions, guest's personal belongings, spare parts and so on. The yacht has to be self-sufficient in all regards: in respect to fuel, with big sized fuel tanks, in respect to fresh water (with high output water makers). Usually Explorer Yachts stay away from harbors, therefore the zero speed stabilizers will be a key factor. We prefer to use electrical ones because they are much quieter when operating. Another very important aspect is the tender. Usually the tender is part of the exploration and should be as big as possible. For this reason, unless it is a yacht above 500 GT, there will not be any garage and the tender will be fitted on main or upper deck, and usually towed to free up deck space. The naval architecture also plays a key-role: good seakeeping, hull efficiency to improve range, flared bow sections to prevent green water on deck, generous freeboard to keep the deck dry...