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yacht designers





The main staircase aboard *Quinta Essentia* has glass cantilever steps and a glass decoration by Parisian craftsman Bernard Pictet on silver paint, creating a stunning icy waterfall effect. Opposite: a portrait of Michela Reverberi.



MICHELIA REVERBERI

The Rome-based architect loves light and direct contact with nature. This aspect of her personality shines through in her designs - bright, airy spaces in harmony with the exterior

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love open spaces, light, wind, and I'm always looking for direct contact with nature.” This aspect of Rome-based architect Michela Reverberi shines through in every design that bears her now inimitable stamp. “The most important thing for me is to always try to contextualise whatever object I'm working on. In the case of a yacht therefore I naturally imagine it in the middle of the sea and flooded in sunlight.” It's hardly surprising therefore that since Reverberi created her first concept, a 44-metre for *Metalnave* in 2000, large windows, airy spaces and furnishings so light they seem to float in mid-air have become a signature of all of her designs. “I always try to achieve a sense of lightness. I play with transparency and reflections a lot because I believe very strongly that beauty lies in contrast, shadow and light interplay and in creating unexpected light sources, on how light falls on things and highlights them.”

The 72-metre being readied for launch in March 2012

by VSY Viareggio SuperYachts is an excellent example of this approach. It is awash with enormous glazed areas of up to 2.7 metres in height and was a project in which Michela Reverberi found herself in her element. “The starting points were so in tune with my own way of working that I immediately felt a great sense of belonging to the project and that stimulated me to create something truly unique... I even had to think about how I would manage so much light to avoid it becoming annoying. I was also very enthusiastic about bringing nature aboard through a tropical garden which created a sense of vertical continuity between the main and upper decks which were linked by this living, growing wall. I wanted to recreate the effect of sunlight filtering through the vegetation, so that the shadows of the leaves fell on the furniture, walls and floor.” Another project that very much appealed to Reverberi's own character was *Quinta Essentia*, splashed in spring 2011 by Heesen Yachts. “I was very



Below: the main saloon aboard a 72-metre yacht by VSY Viareggio Super Yachts that will be launched in March 2012. The design features enormous 2.70-metre-high windows and a tropical garden that vertically connects the main deck with the upper deck. Opposite, top: a corner of the lounge aboard Quinta Essentia by Heesen Yachts; below: the main saloon aboard Blade, formerly H2ome, where the refit design was by Michela Reverberi. The designer created solutions that perfectly reflect the decisive character of the exterior with bright colours, eccentric furniture and a layout that creates the effect of completely opening up the interior to the exterior.



“I always try to achieve a sense of lightness. I play with transparency and reflections as I believe beauty lies in contrast”

fortunate once again because lots of skylights were included in the original concept and they created a dialogue between the various decks. So all I had to do was further enhance that characteristic by designing furnishings that were as transparent as possible and which looked like they were suspended, so that I didn't interfere with the passage of either natural or artificial light,” she smiles. “I talk about being fortunate because the naval structure has usually already been defined by the time I get involved in the work and so it tends to be more complicated. The ideal situation would be to work in tandem with the naval architect from the very outset. That's actually happening right now with Espen Øino on the concept of a new 65-metre for VSY Viareggio SuperYachts. It's perfect, really, because we're both following the step-by-step development: I can explain my design needs and he can work them in with his structural ones. The result that we're getting, thanks to that coordination, is very interesting indeed and we'll be using solutions never seen aboard before. I won't deny though that what's happening has been made possible too by the fact that Øino, the yard and

myself are all completely on the same page when it comes to light and airiness.” Huge windows and extensive open plan spaces feature also aboard Blade, ex H2ome, which Reverberi recently refitted with Monaco Marine of La Ciotat, France. “I had such fun playing with the huge swathes of glass. The owner didn't even want curtains – he went for panels that are only put over the glass at night. So light is the real star of that show.” Interior-exterior continuity is another subject dear to Reverberi's heart and features also: “This is a boat with a very specific identity, very aggressive in her lines – with a thrusting profile. It's very important to me that there be total consistency between exterior and interior design and so I developed a design that really fit the impression the boat gives of herself from outside.” Hence the strong colours, quirky accessories and a furnishing layout designed to completely open up the interior to the exterior. The result is so brilliantly effective and creates such an effortless dialogue that it's not hard to imagine a yacht with both exteriors and interiors from Reverberi's drawingboard in the near future. ■