

DRAWING BOARD TO SEABOARD

The European summer season is fast approaching and with it comes an exciting period courtesy of a veritable flotilla of new launches. Behind the scenes the yards are working feverishly to meet scheduled deliveries and in studios across the globe designers continue to explore projects that will pioneer new areas in yachting. For this issue we've collected a number of yachts that will soon emerge into the sunlight, others that are still incubating in dark halls, and projects we hope will eventually see the light of day. **BY CRAIG BARNETT**

FROM VIRTUAL TO REALITY

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LOA: 281' 04" (88.8M) • **BEAM:** 51' 02" (15.6M) • **DRAFT:** 13' 01" (4M) • **HULL:** STEEL
CABINS: 7 (14 GUESTS) • **CREW:** 27 • **FLAG:** BELIZE • **CRUISING SPEED:** 14-KNOTS
MAX SPEED: 17-KNOTS • **BUILDER:** RAFFLES, SHANDONG, CHINA • **PRICE:** \$89,500,000





The Great Launch of China

Raffles 88m construction forges ahead

I **Images have recently come to light** of an 88m project currently under construction at the Raffles shipyard in Shandong, China. The yard already has a number of significant launches to its credit, including the retro-inspired 90m Nero (1,400GRT) and the 88m (2,385GRT) Asean Lady, both of who feature in the Top 100 largest yachts in the world. The yacht was photographed during her barge transfer between construction and fit-out facilities and shows her steel hull and aluminium superstructure are complete. Representing the largest yacht to be built in China to date, with a length of 88m and beam of 15.6m, the six-decker is sleek and yet still manages to boast a 3,500GT volume. The yacht is scheduled for delivery mid-2015. The early images show several lateral openings in the hull, with tender garage doors aft and possibly several balconies. Her high foredeck is also left uncluttered, suggesting the inclusion of a touch-and-go helipad. At the time of going to press we heard that the project, named Illusion, is currently for sale through Fraser Yachts and Azure Naval completed her naval architecture. Established just nine years ago, Azure has already built an impressive portfolio of launches, including award-winning yachts like Sunrays, Vibrant Curiosity and Cakewalk. Amongst the partners at Azure is Director Hugo van Wieringen, former owner of Feadship De Voogt Naval Architects. Illusion's exterior design comes from Rainsford Mann Design's studio in Fulham, London, and the highly contemporary lines remain elegant while enclosing her



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considerable volume. From the plumb bow to cockpit, which will feature an infinity pool, to the views from the skylounge perched high on the sundeck, Illusion is diametrically opposed in styling to MY Nero and demonstrates the versatility of the Raffles shipyard. Early information suggests on completion Illusion's top speed of 17-knots and comfortable 14-knot cruising

speed will come courtesy of diesel electric propulsion units from Rolls Royce. Illusion's exterior profile is unmistakably imposing and yet graceful, and her interior styling represents quite a departure from traditional themes. Inspired by the tones, shapes and textures of the Orient, the interiors were drawn by Sander Sinot, whose work has also featured on the Feadships Musashi

and Helix. The Asia-inspired décor makes for a highly refreshing change and rather than recount what can be seen in the renderings displayed here, we'd like to point out what will surely be one of the showpiece elements of Illusion: the galleried connection between the lounge and dining area of the upper salon. Creating an atrium and catwalk effect, by duplicating the deck opening for the open-plan staircase, the inclusion of a double-deck water wall is a highly attractive and decadent feature. Illusion is currently for sale through Jan Jaap Minnema at Fraser Yachts with a price tag of \$89,500,000.

