

Yacht Island Design: **THE FLEET OF THE FUTURE**

SUR LA TERRE ARABIA CASTS OFF WITH BRITAIN'S YACHT ISLAND DESIGN, A COMPANY DEDICATED TO THE LUXURY YACHTING OF TOMORROW.



Images courtesy of Yacht Island Design



To the untrained eye, the word Magrathea may appear to be the traditional and since-unused name of some old Scottish fishwife or another. Its name, however, has much more significance than that (no offence to old Scottish fishwives). Dutiful fans and firm readers of Douglas Adams' series of novels that encapsulate *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* will recall that Magrathea is, in actual fact, the ancient, mindbogglingly enormous and quite fictional universal headquarters of a company that designs and produces bespoke luxury planets for its discerning, wealthy and alien clientele.

Of course, Magrathea doesn't actually exist; it's just some invented place in a (hilarious) science fiction series, right? Wrong! Thanks to a company called Yacht Island Design, which specialises in conceptualising the largest, most luxurious and infinitely-creative themed yachts this (or any other) world has ever seen, Earth finally has its own version of Magrathea, and a galaxy of possibility now awaits anyone with enough vision - and income - to build his or her own floating island!

Being that it is being courted by an untold amount of interested clients at the moment, Yacht Island Design currently deals within the realm of the conceptual in its approach to unique yacht creation. However, judging by its compact yet powerful portfolio of designs, we here at *SLT* believe that its arresting designs will soon see existential fruition very soon.

Here is a sample of what Yacht Island Design, in all of its wondrous adherence to the *SLT* "ridiculux" lifestyle, will soon have to offer a luxury yachting community thirsty for something different.

Streets of Monaco

Transcending the limitations of current terminology like "mega yacht," Yacht Island Designs prefers to refer to its flagship vessel, The Streets of Monaco, as a "hyper yacht," but given what is at the heart of its design, we would rather call it a "meta yacht."

Designed to highlight Monaco's most well-known landmarks, such as the Prince's Palace and the Rascasse, it also includes that which makes it "the yacht of yachts" - a miniature Port Hercules, the life-sized version of which of course plays annual host to the unmissable and historic Monaco Yacht Show.

What takes point in terms of design in The Streets of Monaco is the faithful, fully-integrated re-imagining of the principality's renowned grand prix track, the Circuit de Monaco as a functional kart track. Wide enough to accommodate three lanes of karting traffic (for those more harried races with regular overtaking), this is for the obsessed F1 enthusiast and stands as quite possibly the most dynamic and entertaining feature we have ever seen proposed on the high end of the high-seas.

Of course, even this impressive feature stands only as the facade of the Streets of Monaco, with other surface features that include tennis courts and a helipad. But make no mistake, this is a floating city, with an elegant and seemingly endless infrastructure to match! The interior "Oasis," as it is referred to by its designers, is inspired by the gardens just outside the Monaco Casino, and comes replete with its own waterfall feature that directly feeds the ship's main pool and jacuzzi. Just next door is The Streets of Monaco's Spa (because, of COURSE it has its own spa), which joins a hair salon, a cafe bar and even its own cinema as the ship's most arresting interior features.

A short elevator jaunt or canter down its marble staircase later, and you will find yourself in The Grand Atrium, which houses what the designers call the "central hub" of the yacht, incorporating as it does the expansive, 1,460 square metre, three-story owners' quarters, accessible through a private lift and enjoying royal features such as a double-height ceiling, its own fireplace, a private courtyard, a "listening room," a dedicated pool/jacuzzi and a multitude of private balconies.

Joined by its retinue of guest suites, which range in size from 135 square metres to the VIP 356 square metre affairs amongst its other features and aforementioned amenities, it's really no surprise why the entirety of ►



(Opposite Page) The Streets of Monaco in all its conceptual glory; (Right) The volcanic wonder of Tropical Island Paradise; (Page 101 & Below) Proposed interiors for The Streets of Monaco



The Streets of Monaco's 155 metres will cost the interested upwards of \$400 million to own, and probably a few more million to operate.

This is a self-contained flotilla of dreams, an idea armada of one, and Yacht Island Design's avant-garde as it sets sail to conquer its very alluring and nigh-impossibly exclusive niche of the yachting world. It is by no means, however, its only design.

Tropical Island Paradise

Why go island-hopping on your luxury liner when you can just bring the island along for the ride? The undulating hull design of this most volcanic of vessels gives its admirers the illusion of swiftly-lapping waves, incorporating it into the very oceanic atmosphere which it so richly mirrors.

However, the volcano, which acts as the Tropical Island Paradise's thematic fulcrum, is not simply for the aesthetic. Not only does it feed with its "lava" flow the open-faced swimming pool, which offers unfettered and unparalleled views of the seas, it also acts as the foundation which houses the positively palatial owners' quarters, which themselves overlook the impressive cluster of guest cabanas at midships.

Much like The Streets of Monaco, this futuristic and floral-fantastic frigate enjoys its own deployable beach deck, which unleashes any number of ships in your own floating armada of water sports. Also inclusive within this movable island retreat's lush environs are its own cinema, library, games room and gym, with a reportedly impressive collection of lounges, each one of which ruminates with its own particular unique ambiance, and a fully-equipped spa.

Project Utopia

In what appears to be a cross between the cloning facility in *Star Wars: Attack of the Clones* and the futuristic seafaring lair of James Bond baddie and "Shipping Tycoon Scientist," Karl Stromberg, in *The Spy Who Loved Me*, Project Utopia (pictured) is quite possibly our most eagerly-anticipated venture from Yacht Island Design.

A unique collaborative effort with BMT Nigel Gee, Project Utopia will reportedly stretch to 100m x 100m in size, with "the equivalent deck space of today's cruise liners," and from what we can tell, is the company's most commercial option. Hidden within its landed flying saucer design will be an apparently "bewildering" amount of options for its visitors, including a retail district, cinema, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, a casino and an observatory deck with 360 degree views at a height of 65 metres above sea level, so you can see and remember what life used to be like outside.

Stretching across 11 decks and establishing an otherworldly presence the likes of which our seas have never seen, "Utopia," is, in the words of its designers, "not an object to travel in, it is a place to be, an island established for anyone who has the vision to create such a place."

On the Horizon...

Other designs currently in-process from Yacht Island Design are the ornate, clearly traditional Chinese Junk-style "Oriental Chuan," and "Eastern Promise," which appears to be inspired by the ovals, angles and spires most often seen in the architecture employed here in the Middle East.

Of course, the studio's aspirations - like those of its future clients - are bigger than simply what it has in store at the moment, as it will also offer custom-built, bespoke yachts for its partners, thus further ensuring that, like Magrathea, your sea-faring fantasies will one day soon become science-fact.



Architect Of Dreams

YACHT ISLAND DESIGN DIRECTOR, SCOTT POXON,
DISCUSSES WITH *SLT* WHAT MAKES HIS NAUTICAL IDEA
FACTORY SO BUOYANT.

Yacht Island Design's approach to design is keenly thematic (and even bespoke), but where do you get the ideas for concepts such as Tropical Island Paradise or our personal favourite, Project Utopia?

The inspiration for Tropical Island Paradise was relatively simple, the idea of a tranquil getaway conjures up images of turquoise seas and empty beaches. We took that as the basis and developed it to create an interesting architectural and natural story. Project Utopia was a joint venture with Naval Architects BMT Nigel Gee; they had the idea to create an innovative new platform, so we developed a highly modern style that suited the platform constraints.

Do you believe Yacht Island Design is truly the future of yachting, or an infinitely-imaginative creative niche for those looking to expand their boating horizons?

I would love to say this was the future of yachting; however, I think your statement of an imaginative creative niche is more likely the

case, which is fine! We want to produce highly interesting unique projects. That said, there has been interest from a number of commercial avenues.

What will it take to practically make these designs into a reality? By your estimation, when could we see them on the seas?

With the exception of Project Utopia, which is a complete concept, the rest of the vessels have been based on SWATH hull forms. This is an existing technology that has been produced for a number of years. The technology is well understood, so time from a client approaching us to commission of a vessel to the point it floats out would be very similar to an equivalent size "traditional" yacht. There may be a little longer time in construction, depending on the type of theming, which may require subtly different finishing techniques, but this would be minimal. ☺