

MIDAS

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PERLE BLEUE

Hakvoort | Diana Yacht Design / Donald Starkey Design



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"was further attracted by Peggy Bey's idea of doing something completely different to their previous, more traditional looking yacht Campbell Bay, also built at Hakvoort. She wanted interiors that would evoke memories of one of their favourite Caribbean Islands- St Barts - but also incorporating an oriental flavour with a touch of Art Deco. An interesting brief...." Donald Starkey, D.S.D. 2008.

Perle Bleue is a fine specimen of what is becoming known these days as a 'pocket' super yacht. This new 38-meter motor yacht with a stunning interior from designer Donald Starkey-strong yard and owner relationships with Hakvoort of Holland is a de-facto statement on how to work with space. These factors, combined with naval architecture from Diana Yacht Design is everything that results from knowledgeable owners and an excellent understanding by all of what the goals are.

"I re-styled the exterior profile to give a more modern appearance which had the effect of making this "small" yacht look longer."

- Donald Starkey -



Concerning the Art Deco strand of the brief, if we look at the main salon, deco-style furniture such as the armchairs and the aft port armoire supports these melodies and themes.

It is more often than not, that Donald works with owners with whom he already has had a long term relationship and this is definitely one of those instances... "I have known Stanley and Peggy Bey for many years as keen and experienced yacht owners and we had always discussed the probability of doing a project together - and almost did several years ago. They eventually approached me through their broker Ken Denison to see if I would be interested to work with them on this "smaller" boat they had decided to build at Hakvoort. Knowing Hakvoort, having built *Lady Marina* there some 10 years ago, I readily agreed."

The 'pocket' super yacht concept is all about getting a much larger yacht feel and presence in a smaller space. A lot of the things owners and guests expect on larger boats have been carefully considered and artfully delivered by Starkey's innovative and idea rich interior spaces. This is not just a quality versus quantity issue. Although *Perle Bleue* is 20 feet shorter than their previous yacht the 147-foot Hakvoort motor yacht *Campbell Bay*, the level of expertise, technique and workmanship delivered, means

this is a true ocean going yacht (she has already crossed the Atlantic), built to perform and deliver at all levels, with the integrity that comes from Dutch build quality.

Well seasoned designers like Donald understand instinctively and it is a kind of second nature, that his main role is to channel the needs of the client with his own philosophies and knowledge. This is often a very rewarding journey for both parties and if handled correctly can throw up surprises and energise. I know some owners who remark that building the boat is as much fun as sailing it. The level of emotional engagement on a project such as this from the owners guarantees that something lasting will result.

Compared to the more tradition looking *Campbell Bay* also built at Hakvoort, the client wanted interiors that would evoke memories of one of their favourite Caribbean Islands- St Barts -but also there was request to incorporate an oriental flavour with a touch of Art Deco. This kind of visual and material melange is rewarding in the sense that we are immediately dealing with the advantage of having a very rich colour palette and influences.



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Indochina and oriental cultures as a whole, if one can pull it down as a design composite, offers design styles that incorporates a vast combination and fusion of races and cultures into a single design theme, allowing the designer a wonderfully rich volume of idea fonts.

Concerning the Art Deco strand of the brief, if we look at the main salon, deco-style furniture such as the armchairs and the aft port armoire supports these melodies and themes. With furniture crafted in Italy - bespoke for the project, one can see that the supporting cast of loose furniture, art and objects come together as a whole. This brings an immediate feeling that the space is a whole to the discerning eye.

"Printed wall murals fore and aft define the more formal art-deco space. The ceiling is finished in burnished gold panels, the floor in leather with carpet defining the sitting area." Donald Starkey.

The materials and textures of the floors evolve from hard leather near the aft doors, to carpeting in the middle social area, to hard leather again forward, below the tables. The deco tone is further enhanced by a series of murals placed in the four corners of the room. The artist



The bathroom: a luxurious soaking tub and custom washbasins, textured stones and finishes. Including slate, Jerusalem stone and mother-of-pearl walls.

Juarez Machado, was sourced by Starkey, to be digitally reproduced so it could be broken up, scattered and spread out among the different panels seen in the main salon. A clear example here (if one was needed) of how Donald balances a space and was also fully aware the quite different impact the piece would have had if used as a whole.

There is a lot of delicate, natural beauty on *Perle Bleue*. The respect and sympathy given to every natural material used on board. Including the accessories, woods, leather and metals are employed in distinctive ways that entertain the eye and bring to mind thought processes that may come back to one days later after interacting with such an interior space.

"The owners suite on the forward main deck has dark wenge panelling and shoji type window screens and lacquered finishes evoking Far Eastern, Balinese/Japanese influences." Donald Starkey.

The master suite is supported by visual and tactile elements such as lacquered night tables and a geometric

terraced divider that smoothly make the evolution from deco to Asian themes. Though tranquil, the suite has many rewarding details: Bamboo veneers dominate the floor, while a low platform bed and shoji screen window treatments have the air of the East. For bedside lighting, gold-leaf brackets that match the room divider - support two hurricane lanterns.

The bathroom: a luxurious soaking tub and custom washbasins, textured stones and finishes. Including slate, Jerusalem stone and mother-of-pearl walls. The rainshower room is finished in river rock flooring.

"The lower deck three guest suites are all in a painted panelled wall and ceiling finish with teak floors, each having bathrooms in travertine stone walls on a pebble "beach" floor. Cabinets are in a "weathered teak" finish." Donald Starkey.

The guest suites are named after the couple's favourite St. Barth's spots - François Plantation, Isle de France and Eden Rock. The central stairway leading down interestingly exploits industrial copper piping for the handrail.





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François Plantation was designed with a mind to guests with children, thus features two single berths in an L-shape configuration and a Pullman. As with the other guest bathrooms, a river-rock floor runs throughout, from the shower through to the washroom.

The feeling on this level is colonial with Caribbean themes, especially in the identical queen-size cabins—Isle de France and Eden Rock. The walls are traditionally panelled with the exception of the window walls, which feature louvered plantation shutters, adding to the St. Barth's resort theme.

The sky lounge embodies more than ten different woods adorning the space with a very 'want to touch' visually tactile and organic signature. The walls are dominated with a lighter whitewashed teak. This teak is inlaid with



matte burl in between the floor-to-ceiling windows. The surfaces visual textures are matte rather than gloss, smooth, and a joy to behold. Forward on either side are burl mosaics. The floor is classic teak and holly. Green accents in the fabric bring life to the space, as does the deco furniture selected by Mrs. Bey and fabricated by a Starkey discovered workshop in Italy to bespoke criteria.

Inset mirrors are cleverly integrated in the port and starboard alcoves, forward and aft, these give the impression of windows and add even greater feeling of latitude and space. The clever design footprint enhances the 'big boat' feel and as Donald says, "I also re-styled the exterior profile to give a more modern appearance which had the effect of making this "small" yacht look longer."

If evoking memories and desires from favourite and emotional mental-scapes of the owners was driving this project, it is a clear success on every level, where mitigating factors such as the size of the yacht has been beautifully and engagingly dealt with by Donald. As perhaps we move into a time where more of this kind of 'pocket' super yacht ranging in size from 35-50m are being built, one wouldn't go far wrong using Perle Bleue as a blueprint for what can be achieved. One of my favourite boats of the year.