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THE NEW FACES OF YACHT DESIGN

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## The USA ISSUE

**THE MAKING OF A SUPERYACHT SUPERPOWER**

**AMERICAN DREAMERS: OWNERS OPEN UP**

**WESTPORT DOUBLES DOWN ON STYLE**



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# Extend your possibilities

WHEN YOU NEED MORE SPACE AT SEA FOR FAMILY AND FUN,  
YOU CAN ALWAYS BUY A BIGGER BOAT. BUT ONE SPORT-LOVING OWNER  
LOOKED TO LYNX YACHTS FOR SUPPORT – OR RATHER ITS  
NEW 27-METRE SUPPORT VESSEL, SAYS ANDREW JOHANSSON

Photography Tom van Oossanen/Gaston Westphal









*The YXT 24 Evolution is almost a metre longer than its predecessor, using the extra length to add a beach club as a further attraction for young, adventurous owners*

Many a superyacht owner has gazed longingly at a rank of shiny new jet skis and wished their tender garage was just a few metres longer. With its Yacht-X-Tender (YXT) range, Lynx Yachts set out to give those owners extra space for storage and entertainment without having to engage in a refit or shell out for a new, larger yacht. Support vessels are usually rather big, but in 2014 Lynx debuted this range with *YXT One*, a 24-metre support boat with numerous possibilities for use and customisation. It is a concept that has driven the shipyard to develop additional models, including the first 27.1-metre *YXT 24 Evolution*.

Based on the 26.3-metre *YXT 24*, the *Evolution* model – as the name suggests – has grown beyond the brief of the original, most noticeably in length, with just under a metre added to accommodate a more substantial beach club. It is an important area for the private Californian owner, but not for the reasons one might think.

“It was clear from the first meeting I had with the client that he is a very active person who loves sport and is gifted with a strong aesthetic sense,” says Filippo Rossi, sales and marketing manager for Lynx Yachts, as we sit near the yard in Nijkerk, nearly 50 kilometres south-east of Amsterdam. The client owned a 27.3-metre *WallyAce* called *Wally Casa*, but needed more space.

To facilitate the owner’s passion for sport, in particular surfing, Lynx collaborated with exterior designer Bernd Weel to adapt the *YXT 24* platform to accommodate the client’s surfboards – as well as create a large beach club to entertain guests. The new design includes steps on the stern hatch (which encloses the surf kit, linen stores and gym) to create a stadium-like set-up from which friends and family can watch those surfing behind the shadow vessel.

Inside, a capacious steam room and shower is only a few steps from the racks of surfboards, while opposite there is a twin suite with a Pullman for guests, instructors or staff. Crew are catered for in two twin en-suite cabins towards the bow that connect directly to the galley, pantry and provisions store. On the water, meanwhile, an Opacmare transformer platform at the stern enhances the beach club atmosphere. “When you look at *YXT One*, it was closed and didn’t have a big platform aft of the vessel,” says Weel. “So to have it on this vessel is a very positive feature. It brings you so much closer to the water than with previous models.”

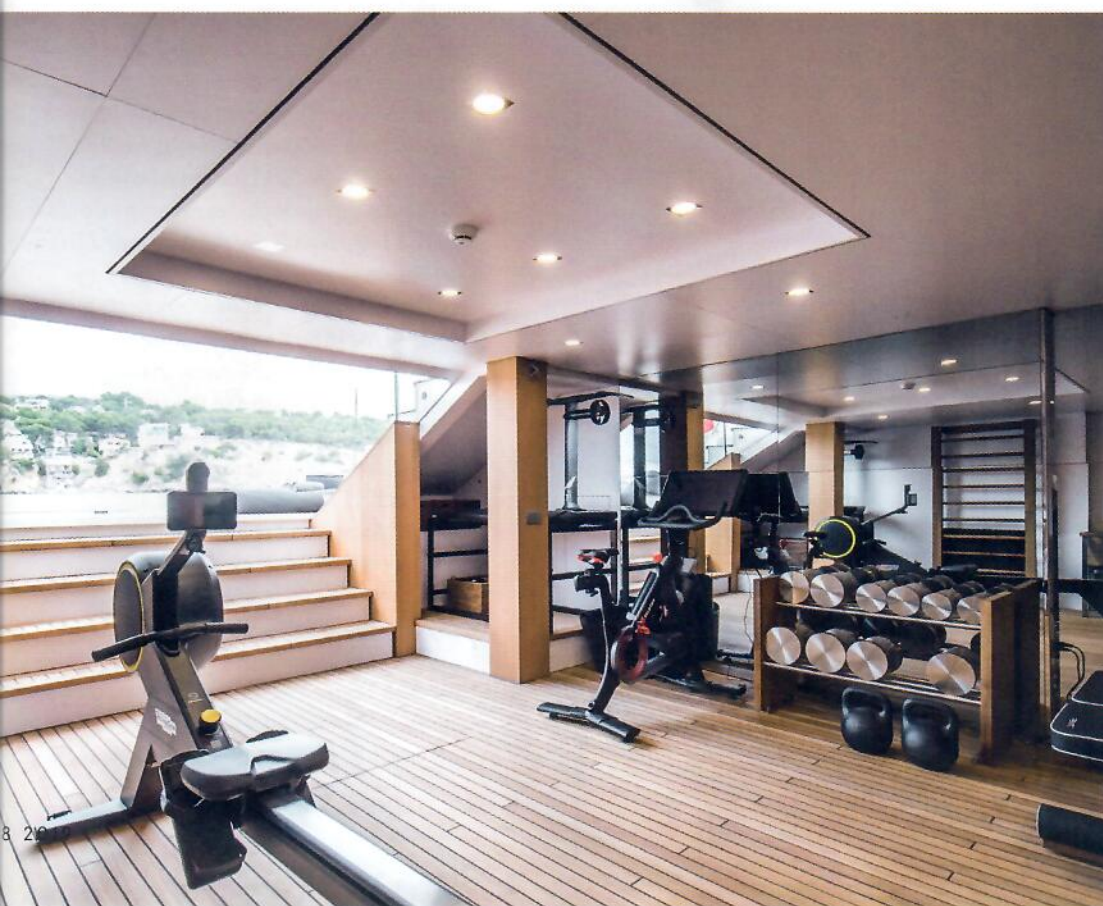
This is the first project that Lynx has worked on with Weel. The young Dutchman has been sympathetic to the *YXT* design language first penned by Diana Yacht Design, which acted as







The vast, 75m<sup>2</sup> open deck is the YXT 24 Evolution's raison d'être. There's room for a 7m Super Air Nautique G23 wake boat, a Land Rover Defender 110 and a jet ski – all without being a tight squeeze. The back of the wheelhouse features a 100-inch Sony television screen and a basketball hoop for entertainment. Below: the lazarette down from the bathing platform can work as a gym and a storage space for sports toys





The Evolution is a cut above purely practical support vessels, which can lack fairing or clean finishing



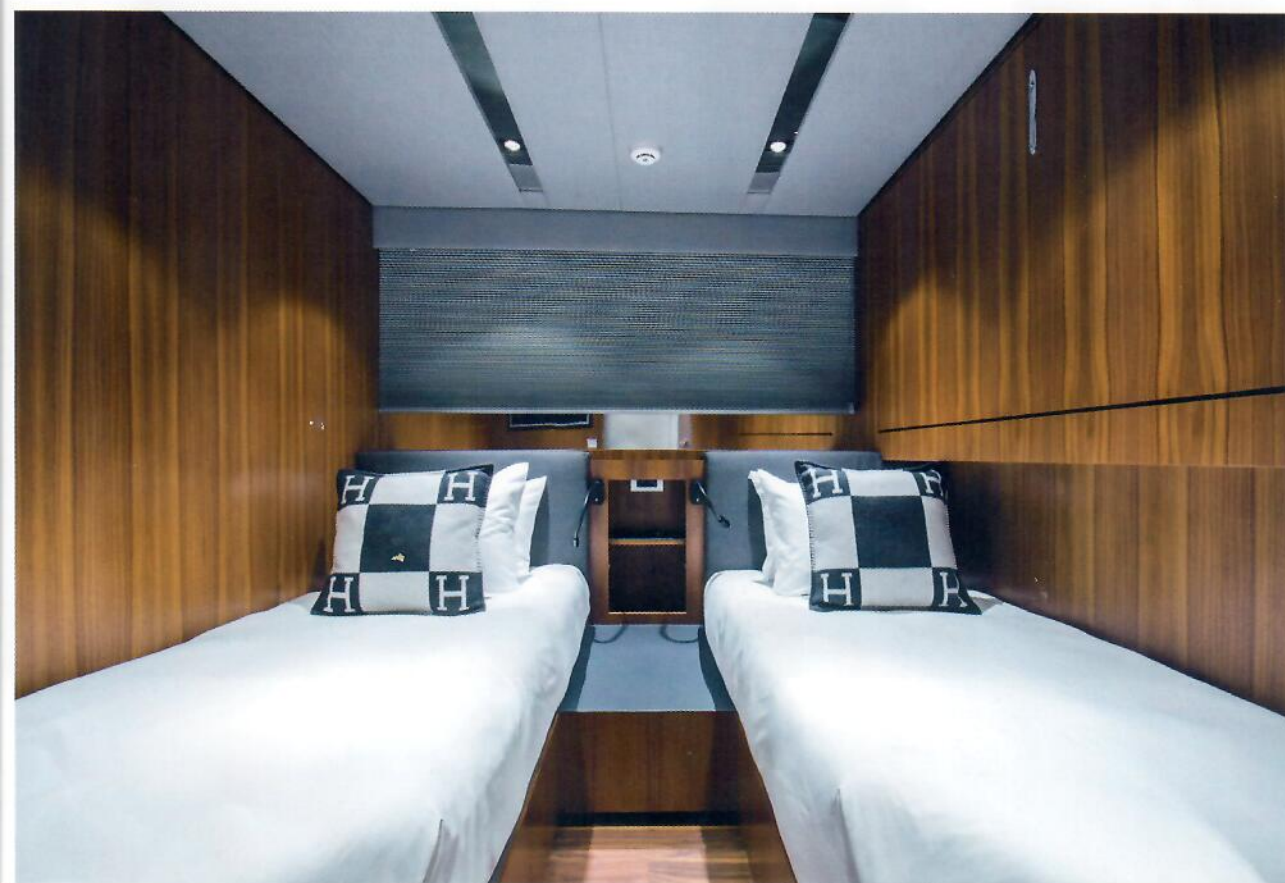




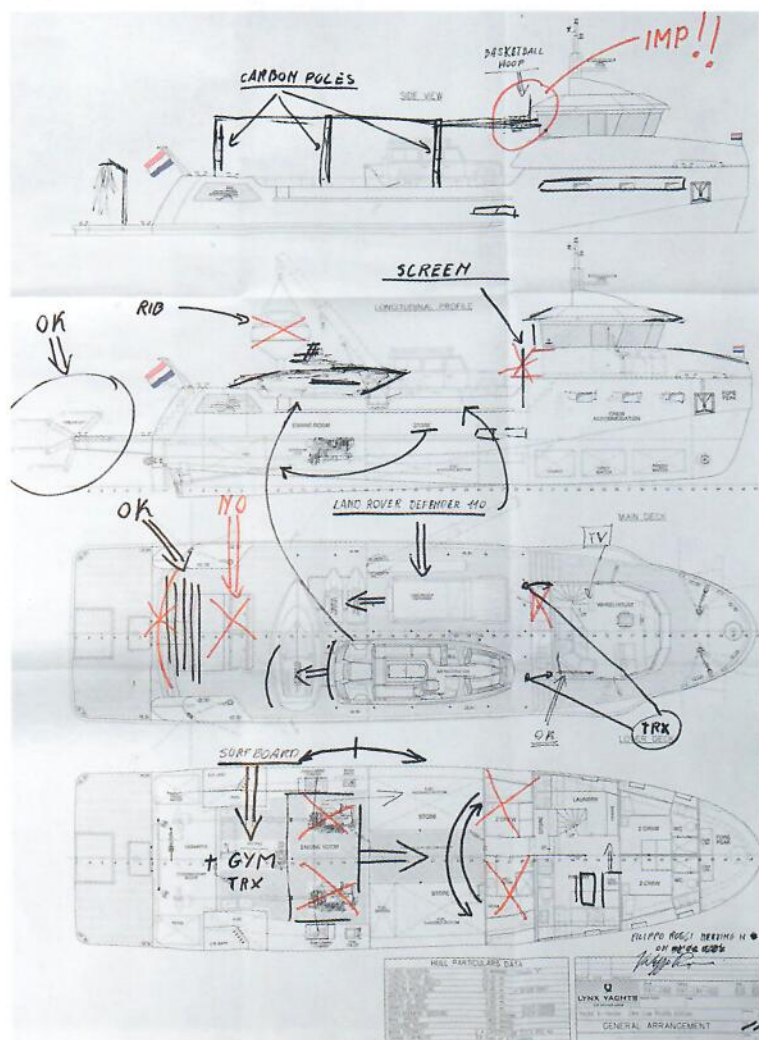




The mothership's walnut veneer walls have been used throughout







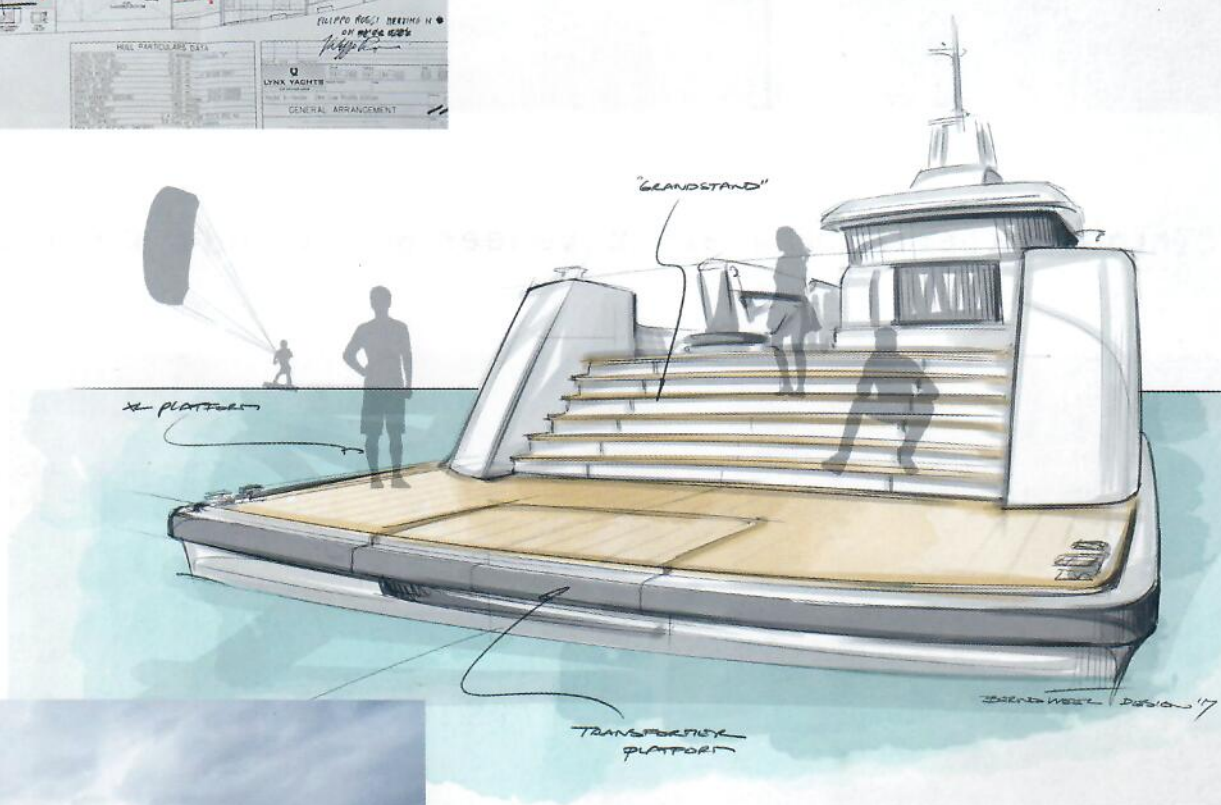
## First impressions

When it comes to selling the idea of a new build, nobody is better qualified than a designer. Alongside the ability to produce strong explanatory visuals of the item they envisage, the truly successful have mastered the art of listening. The focus of Filippo Rossi's sales strategy is simple in theory: listen and deliver. When this is combined with the ability to sketch, a skill he acquired earlier in his career as an architect, the sales process becomes more interesting and therefore more likely to succeed.

"If you listen carefully to the client, then it is easy but you also have to effectively and accurately relay that information to your team, otherwise you lose the essence of what the client wants," says Rossi. "It's in those first few meetings with them that you get the real idea."

The Italian goes on to explain that as a project begins to grow, valuable input from other players such as engineers, surveyors and so on, can dilute the original idea – so it's vital to keep everyone coming back to that concept. "I still have the original report and sketches that I made following the first meeting I had with the client when we sat down in Porto Cervo," he says. "The boat we have made is the same as the one I wrote about in my report, exactly."

During an early meeting with the owner of the first YXT 24 Evolution, Filippo Rossi made notes on the GA (above). A later sketch featured the unusual stepped stern hatch from those annotations, and it became part of the finished boat (below)



"It brings you so much closer to the water than with previous models"







This version of the YXT has been developed to its fullest potential'



Top: the wheelhouse and its seating area, which converts into a bed.  
Left: the galley with table and another convertible bed. It is opposite a provisions store while adjacent aft is a guest cabin and forward are the crew quarters. Opposite page: when cleared, the open deck can be used for basketball, barbecues and parties







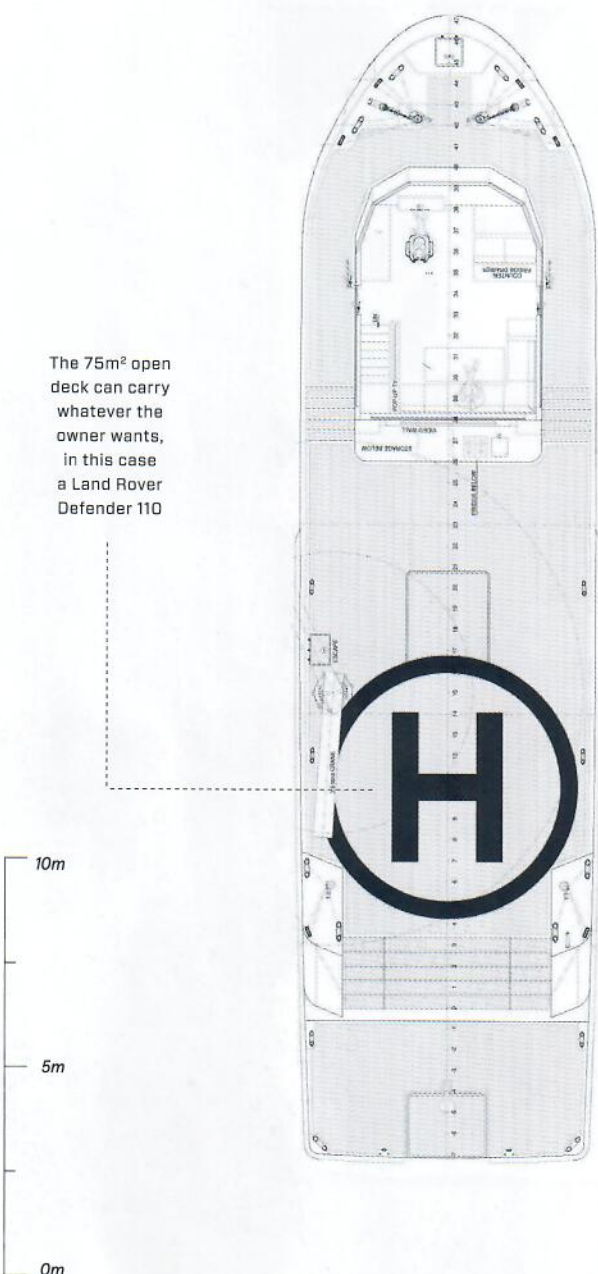
## YXT 24 Evolution

Lynx Yachts

Main deck

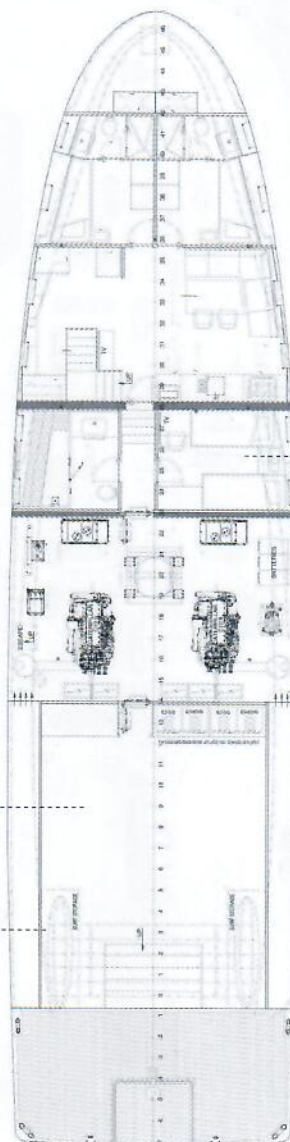
Lower deck

The 75m<sup>2</sup> open deck can carry whatever the owner wants, in this case a Land Rover Defender 110



The lazarette has gym facilities to be used while looking over the ocean

The owner wanted all toys stored below deck to free up the main deck for entertaining



Accommodation for three guests can be used for crew, personal trainers or surfing instructors

**LOA** 27.1m  
**LWL** 26.45m  
**Beam** 7m  
**Draught** (full load) 1.6m  
**Gross tonnage**  
 110GT

**Engines**  
 2 x 850hp Caterpillar C12.9  
**Speed max/cruise**  
 13/12 knots  
**Range at 10 knots**  
 1,400nm  
**Generators**  
 2 x 17.0kW Cummins Qnan

**Fuel capacity**  
 14,000 litres  
**Freshwater capacity**  
 2,600 litres  
**Tender**  
 1 x 7.7m (with platform)  
 Super Air Nautique G23

**Owners/guests** 2 + 1  
**Crew** 4  
**Construction**  
 Steel hull; aluminium superstructure  
**Classification**  
 CE - Category A  
 MCA SCV Code - Cat 2

**Naval architecture**  
 Diana Yacht Design  
**Exterior styling**  
 Bernd Weel Design  
**Interior design**  
 Darnet Design

**Builder/year**  
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