



# Nautech

YACHT, SUPERYACHT, TECHNOLOGIES AND DESIGN

## OTHERS HAVE YET TO CATCH UP

ISSN 1825-6155 - Bimestrale - Anno XII - Poste Italiane Spa - Spedizione in abbonamento postale - D.L. 353/2003 (conv. in L. 27/02/2004 n. 46) art. 1, comma 1, DCB Milano



It's been ten years. The revolution goes on. Easy boating is for real. Volvo Penta IPS means higher performance at lower fuel consumption and less emissions. Ten years of smooth, quiet and comfortable running. Intuitive, responsive steering and docking.

Volvo Penta IPS has become the natural industry benchmark. **10 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE POWER.**

## VOLVO PENTA IPS



Encounters  
**Alberto Mancini:**  
Am yacht design -  
visionary talent

Market  
**Poland:**  
An increasingly  
strategic country

Megayacht  
**NINA** an all-Italian  
superyacht forum  
major Dutch yard

Technology  
**The Maxi Racer**  
updated  
by cut and paste



**tecniche nuove**  
www.tecnichenuove.com

# NINA AN ALL-ITALIAN SUPERYACHT FORUM MAJOR DUTCH YARD

**Hot Lab: yacht & design.** In 2004 the yacht design studio Hot Lab was formed in Milan by three brave and very young designers; initially colleagues and later friends: Michele Dragoni, Enrico Lumini AND Antonio Romano.

**T**hese three young men, who came from car design, architecture and design, met in a product design studio shortly after graduating. There they discovered a common passion: yacht design. Soon after, they decided to undertake this new adventure, and today, more than 10 years later, they had excellent intuition. The early days were hard work and all uphill, but today Hot Lab is one of the Italian studios that works most with foreign owners and yards, bringing Made in Italy and Italian taste to the world. A well-deserved success for a group that has always demonstrated great intellectual honesty and admiration for designers who were older or the same age and whom today Hot Lab can proudly call competitors. A brilliant student of professor and architect Gianni Zuccon, Antonio Romano took with him the teachings of his Maestro, teachings on yacht design and architectural composition but not only these, within the group there are other disciplines that reinforce and characterise the projects created in Hot Lab. The backgrounds of Lumini and Dragoni are in car design and architecture. A mix of disciplines and know-how that today enriched the range of projects the team tackles. It's a young team, they are no more than 40 years old and this ex-



The three founder partners: Michele Dragoni, Enrico Lumini and Antonio Romano.





## HEESEN NINA 38M: EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR DESIGN PROJECT

**Shipyard:** Heesen  
**Yacht name:** Nina  
**Interior and Exterior design:**  
 Hot Lab yacht & design  
**Length L.O.A.:** 38,00 m  
**Maximum beam:** 7,80 m  
**Gross Tons:** <300  
**Hull Material:** Aluminium  
**Superstructure Material:** Aluminium  
**Engines:** 2x MTU 16V 2000 M96L  
**Max speed:** 22 knots  
**Guest:** 10  
**Crew:** 6

plains the freshness, the desire to grow and the potential of this winning group. Currently Hot Lab has a team of 10, contract workers and apprentices: designers, architects, render artists, draughtsmen and many other specialities to tackle projects in the multidisciplinary way, a winning card that so far has brought many interesting results. The heart of the studio, personified in the figures of the three founder partners, is divided into three main roles which over time Romano, Dragoni and Lumini have defined and today collaborate together in a complementary and synergic way. Antonio Romano handles marketing and communication strategies, looking after clients and relationships with the various companies, owners and yards; Enrico Lumini is in charge of everything concerning interior design projects, also following the construction of boats in the yards, while Michele Dragoni looks after the creative side, with a particular focus on exterior design.

### Activity, success and design

Since it was founded, Hot Lab has received important recognition, from Italian prizes to remarkably important international awards. Worth mentioning are the prizes for three boats in particular: MY Noor (37m) won the Show Boat Design Awards in 2011 for the best interior; MY Columbus Sport Hybrid (40m) was a winner in three categories of the Environmental Award 2013 and 2014: Interior Design, Environmental Protection and Holistic Design (a reference to the matching between interiors and exteriors, the exteriors were by the engineer Sergio Cutolo di Hydro Tec). The Columbus Sport Hybrid is a hybrid boat that uses eco-materials, lightened marbles on honeycomb, leathers coloured by water and not with chrome, wood produced in certified and controlled forests. The third vessel is MY Keyla, which in 2014 won the World Superyachts Award in the Rebuild category. These three yachts were the greatest successes of the team, increasing the visibility of the studio also and above all abroad. In fact the studio has had the chance to work mostly with overseas clients, Hot Lab works much more with foreign clients than Italian ones. In Italy it collaborates with Cantieri Mondomarine, with which it is producing a 50 m yacht, and with Filippetti on the interiors of 26 m yacht. Other clients are foreign, both yards and private owners: the studio works above all with Holland, Germany and Turkey; countries with which it enjoys excellent and growing cooperation. The efforts and commitment of this team were also rewarded by an important job it has been

doing for 80 years now: Hot Lab collaborates with the IED (Istituto Europeo del Design) in Milan, holding a course on yacht ECO design for specialisation and degree courses in yachting disciplines. The subject of the course is green yachting design methods: which materials to use, controlling energy impact, low emission engines, new technologies etc. Hot Lab in the first months of 2016 already has five yachts under construction and a lot of new projects in the future. Right from the beginning, the studio was dedicated to developing projects in the field of yacht design, working for well-known yards and above all for private owners, making its mark for careful formal research that produced a sober and elegant style. Experience built up in car and industrial design was transferred to yacht design and, at the same time, the yachting sector looked to interior and hotel design in a continual formal reference to Italian and other architecture. Each project is presented using freehand drawings and digital renderings, from overviews to the finest details on board. Clients are followed and advised throughout the process of creating the new yacht. The multidisciplinary background the studio has is a very important winning card. Car design and architecture are useful stylistic references that create projects that work, though their designs are complex. Not only yacht design but building projects such as apartments and hotels, these remain a small niche of interest for the studio though it wants to develop and grow in the marine and yachting sector. Nina is an interesting 38 m motor yacht completely in aluminium with a semi-displacement hull. This project is an important step for the studio because the Dutch yard is one of the best in Europe and it is not just a concept but in actual project that will soon enter the construction phase. The project handled by the Milanese studio involves both interior and exterior design, an important and demanding job. The initial brief, which was very detailed and precise, came directly from the yard, the target they were interested in was the American market, specifically North America. The American market is currently one of the most appetising and interesting in commercial terms, and this was a determining factor in the various project choices the design is made. The first constraint was linked to draught, which had not to exceed 2 m for a question of navigation; in fact such a limited draught for a 38 m yacht means it can circulate freely and without restriction. Since the target was mostly American, the exterior and interior layouts reflect this. The exteriors are very roomy, rational and functional, the tenders are on view and the yacht is not just an object

MEGAYACHT



External views of Nina, digital renderings. Note the sign of the horizontal bridge on the upper deck and the semi-displacement hull.

Rendering of the exterior of Nina, note the opening stern with the beach club.

Rendering of the interiors of the main deck of Nina, note the particular choices of colours and materials that make the interiors sober, elegant, fresh and contemporary.





to show off but can be used almost every day by the owner, as is the American habit, for example as in yachting in Florida. The design inputs, which were applied right to the end of the project, are all linked to the perception of the sea from the yacht. This explains the large windows looking onto the sea, and the exterior spaces for the owner which are as large as possible. Particularly interesting is the stylistic gesture we can see looking at the profile, the horizontal line of the upper deck highlights the sporty character of the vessel and refines the overall design. The internal layout has a large master suite forward on the main deck; guests are housed on the lower deck into very large cabins with double bunks and two connected with twin bunks. The interiors are very luxurious and recall the W Hotel chain of hotels that are very luxurious but avoid the banal and overstatement. The choice of colours and materials in the interiors make everything very fresh and modern, without making a show of wealth. The materials are refined and original; there is a very interesting type of Brazilian wood, Carballo, dark in colour and with a natural rhomboid texture that is very beautiful. Very captivating, and perhaps coming from the automotive sector, was the choice of combining leathers and metals, very contemporary and of great effect. Nina also has a comfortable beach club astern with several latest generation water toys, this area also serves as a comfortable platform where guests can relax close to the sea but are never too far away from the comfortable interiors. The project was presented for the first time in 2015 at the Fort Lauderdale Yacht Show, the most important international show. The Heesen yard invested a great deal in this project which started from the first drawings, the first sketches, several models, down to the study of the smallest detail and complete engineering. Today, the team and the yard are waiting with anxiety and trepidation for the yacht to be built. The team has built up an excellent relationship with the yard, which has asked them to create another 42 m model with similar style, a real success and an excellent result for Hot Lab. The job of designing the exteriors of Nina was very demanding, because Hot Lab had to compromise between its own style and the style of the yard. Heesen in fact wanted to maintain a stylistic link with a range of yachts from its past which over the years created the success of the yard. Hot Lab thus began by carrying out initial in-depth market research on the Heesen Yachts 3700 Series and other yachts built by the yard in 1979. This careful research, evaluation and study of all design and style elements that were to go into the project means that it could be a winning strategy, because although the first phase of design may seem slow, afterwards everything moves faster, with more formal awareness and more stable bases. The studio wanted to respect the brand and canons of the Heesen yard. In this project the designers worked differently compared with other projects, looking at Nina you can feel the integration of the mark of the studio with the canons of the yard, the latter remaining much more visible. This is unusual, because often projects are self-referential despite the fact that they try to follow the desires of the client. Nina is a sporty yacht, a fast semi racer with excellent performance; the bridge is on a half-deck, an intermediate level between two decks that make the yacht much lower and sleeker, a captivating yacht whose interior hides comfortable, carefully designed and roomy spaces more suited to a life of cruising.

© ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

FORESTI & SUARDI

PASSION & COMPETENCE

Foresti & Suardi S.p.A.  
Via Sarnico 32/a 24060 Predore (BG) - Italy  
Tel. +39.035.938.066 r.a. - Fax +39.035.938064  
info@forestiesuardi.it www.forestiesuardi.com