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LIGHTING AND MATERIALS

Introduction by Enrico Lumini



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ENRICO LUMINI

For Hot Lab's partner and design director, thoughtful lighting can transform not just a yacht's interior but its exterior architecture, too

Good lighting is pivotal in shaping both the aesthetics and functionality of a yacht. "Sculpting space through the manipulation of light is a sort of art," says Enrico Lumini. "Designing lighting for a yacht is akin to crafting a painting, where light is the brush and the interior spaces are the canvas."

Founded by Antonio Romano and Enrico Lumini, Hot Lab will celebrate its 20th birthday this year. It is one of the most influential yacht design studios, winning many prestigious international awards, including BOAT International's own World Superyacht Awards. In 2022, it became part of the Viken Group. The "Hot" of the name refers to the creative element, and "Lab" the technical; a perfect marriage in contemporary yacht design.

Hot Lab has built up a strong team within its studio. Lumini takes on the role of design director and Romano is commercial director. The pair are supported by architect and senior designer Antonio Scognamiglio, FF&E manager Chiara Pastore and architect Alessandro Bellizzi, who runs a significant part of the custom projects with Simone Maggioni. Elena Seregini is responsible for its Turkish clients, an important and expanding sector. The team now totals 12, plus the same number again in freelance support (Viken Group has more than 80 employees).

Lumini explains that at the core of its design philosophy is the beauty of simplicity. "Our ethos revolves around the idea that true elegance lies in the ability to distil complexity into pure and refined forms," he says. "We strongly believe in the innate grace of minimalism, where every line, curve and detail serves a purpose."

This approach can be seen in the number of projects in different construction phases, including a series of 50-metre yachts with Turkish builder Bilgin Yachts. The studio is also building four of the Atlantique line with Palumbo Superyachts, ranging in size from 37 to 47 metres.

Part of Hot Lab's success is down to its deep knowledge of materials and techniques; by understanding their qualities, strengths and limitations, it masters the technical aspects of design. "We like to think Hot Lab is a union of poetry and technology; of artistry and craftsmanship," says Lumini.

Lighting is one of many examples where Hot Lab marries the technical with the beautiful. "Light is also useful for complementing the architecture of the vessel, accentuating its unique features as well as creating a comfortable ambience. It can transform a yacht's interior too, making it feel spacious, cosy and inviting," says Lumini. *Words by Helen Chislett*

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Notable projects

- 45m Trinity Yachts - *Keyla*
- 49.2m Mondomarine - *Ipanema*
- 32m Numarine - *7 Diamonds*
- 43m Columbus - *Atlantique 43*
- 68m AES Yacht - *Ice*
- 65m Columbus Yachts - *Atlantique 65*



PHOTOGRAPHY: KEREM SANILIMAN



1

The custom crystal chandelier on Sunrise is a "star piece", which can be more about establishing style than lighting. Right: the duplex master cabin on the Atlantique 65 employs natural light from skylights

Add lighting in layers

We install many circuits in each cabin, so we are able to play with different combinations of light. It is like having layers, which create a variety of scenarios. They also have to be easy for the staff and the client to control. Some clients are really into the technological approach and some of them are not at all, but most of the time the crew is trained to help them out in case of need.



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Consider natural and artificial light

The interplay between natural and artificial light is crucial in breathing life into interiors. We have to understand how different conditions out on the ocean affect the quality and quantity of natural light and how to boost this when necessary. People love to be surrounded by light when on the sea, so our aim is to encourage as much of this into the boat through the architectural design as possible.

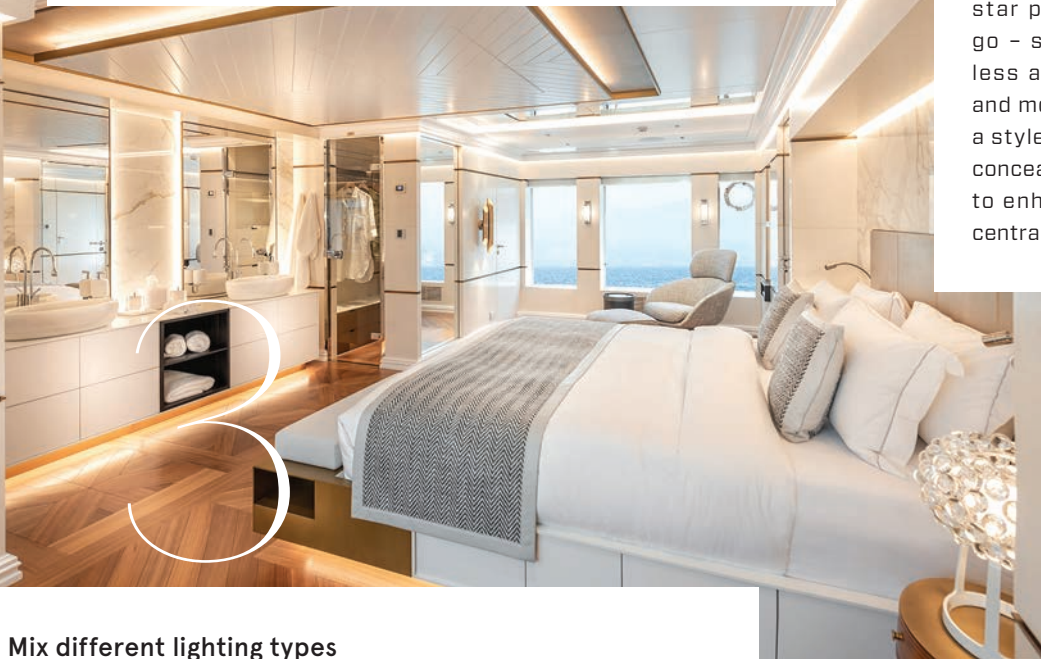
2

It's all about a mix

A variety of heights and styles of light are also important, so we use a blend of table lamps, chandeliers, pendants and wall lights, which complement the indirect lighting. It is important to know where your star pieces of lighting will go - sometimes these are less about lighting a room and more about establishing a style. Downlighters can be concealed above a chandelier to enhance the quality of a central light source.

Match your LEDs

Few things look worse than whitish or yellowish lighting, so it is essential to use high-quality LEDs if you want to avoid having different colour temperatures in a room and throughout the vessel. Fortunately, LED technology is one of the most advanced in terms of colour matching - and this allows us to play with a great quantity of light in every space. It is also great for energy consumption and this sustainable approach is becoming more important with more and more clients demanding environmentally friendly technologies.

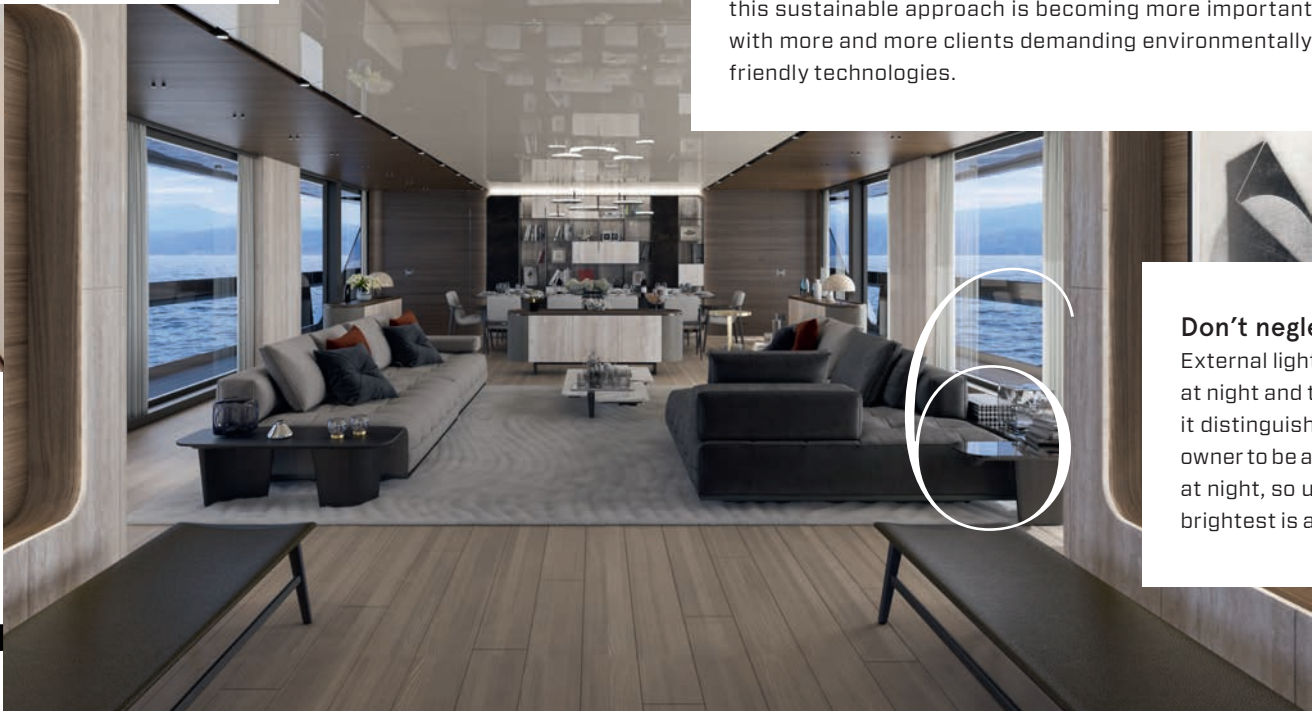


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Mix different lighting types

We recognise the importance of achieving a harmonious balance between direct (spotlight) and indirect (overhead) lighting. So we use an abundance of indirect lighting to create the "base" of the lighting scheme, with thin, angled downlighters positioned to highlight specific areas of a room. In this way we can create a totally different ambience within the same cabin at the touch of a button.

The interplay between artificial and natural light breathes life into M55's master cabin (above) with its custom indirect lighting, and the Atlantique 55's main saloon (right) with its hidden downlights



4

Don't neglect the outside

External lighting is important, particularly to create an ambience at night and to literally pick out the shape of the vessel and make it distinguishable among the others. It is a proud moment for an owner to be able to recognise their yacht at a distance, particularly at night, so using external lighting to make it brighter among the brightest is always an incredible achievement.

Above: the VIP cabin of M55 features high-end custom indirect LED lighting, which is harmoniously balanced with direct lighting

