First Look: 65m Admiral Life Saga

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Fleet

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Admiral's *Life Saga* was one of the newest deliveries in Monaco for the yacht show this year. Anchored out in the bay, the 1,150-GT yacht was easily recognisable by the break in her bulwarks amidships and double-height windows. Having written a story for the July/August issue of *The SuperYacht Times* when the project was still in build, I went aboard the finished yacht with the British designer Mark Berryman who talked me through the interior concept.

Photo: Charl van Rooy / SuperYacht Times"The experienced owner wanted something relaxing and calming that was impressive but laid-back at the same time," says Mark Berryman. "One of his comments in particular struck a chord: he said think of my interior like a cappuccino and just add a little more milk in some areas, and not so much in others. And that just summed it up for me.

Photo: Giuliano Sargentini

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We love to use a lot of oak and it’s always about the tactile element, so we avoid high gloss lacquers and prefer a natural brushed finish to bring the grain and texture out. With pale oak as a backdrop, we introduced some darker woods like walnut and wenge for contrast.

Photo: Giuliano SargentiniPhoto: Giuliano Sargentini

“The owner has a real fascination with leather car interiors and we’ve used leather panelling extensively throughout the yacht, some specially treated for outside use. The automotive theme also provided inspiration for the stitching details and the perforated leather used for the handrail of the main staircase.

“Balancing the natural woods and leathers, the harder interior element, if you like, is the stone. We use travertine a lot because it works so well with our warm colour schemes, but there’s also sunset onyx and emperador marble in places on board.

Photo: Giuliano Sargentini

Photo: Giuliano Sargentini“The owner explained things in a very concise, simple way, and an easy part of the brief was the textiles and fabrics. He told us that if it feels nice and comfortable when you rub a fabric sample on your cheek, it’s good enough for the interior of his yacht.

“I’ve always been drawn to Japanese design, which I find so tranquil, and one of the themes that runs through the yacht is the Japanese-style circular motif with horizontal and vertical battens. The circle is important in Japanese symbolism and architecture, but here it breaks up the straight lines. The owner specifically asked for elements that are repeated throughout that you may not notice at first, but if you do they provide a little more pleasure and appreciation.

Photo: Giuliano Sargentini

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“Another recurring motif and something of a Berryman trademark are the trees we’ve placed throughout the interior. These are hydroponic plants that live off mineral nutrients in water solutions rather than soil. We find trees bring life into the yacht and help to soften the interior spaces as well.

“Something else the owner wanted was multi-functional, transformable spaces. This wasn’t always easy to implement as we were brought into the project quite late, but we were able to do something with the loose furniture. So in the cinema lounge on the main deck, for example, you have a large sofa that can be used for watching a movie on the 75” screen, or because the seating is split in the middle with two pivot points, it can transform into facing sofas to create a conversation area.

Photo: Giuliano Sargentini

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“There are also various bespoke pieces of furniture like the low wood table in the owner’s lounge that opens up to reveal a baize-lined drinks cabinet, or the capstan table that ingeniously rotates and doubles in size. The owner loves multi-purpose things that also have a theatrical element.

Photo: Giuliano Sargentini

Photo: Giuliano Sargentini"The important thing is that the owner and his guests can feel relaxed on board. There are a lot of very beautiful, opulent and embellished yacht interiors out there where I would feel nervous of sitting on a sofa in case I crease it! A yacht should feel like a home away from

home, a place where you can kick off your shoes off and not be afraid to rest them on the coffee table. Most people want to relax into their environment, and that's what happens when you come aboard *Life Saga.*"

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