

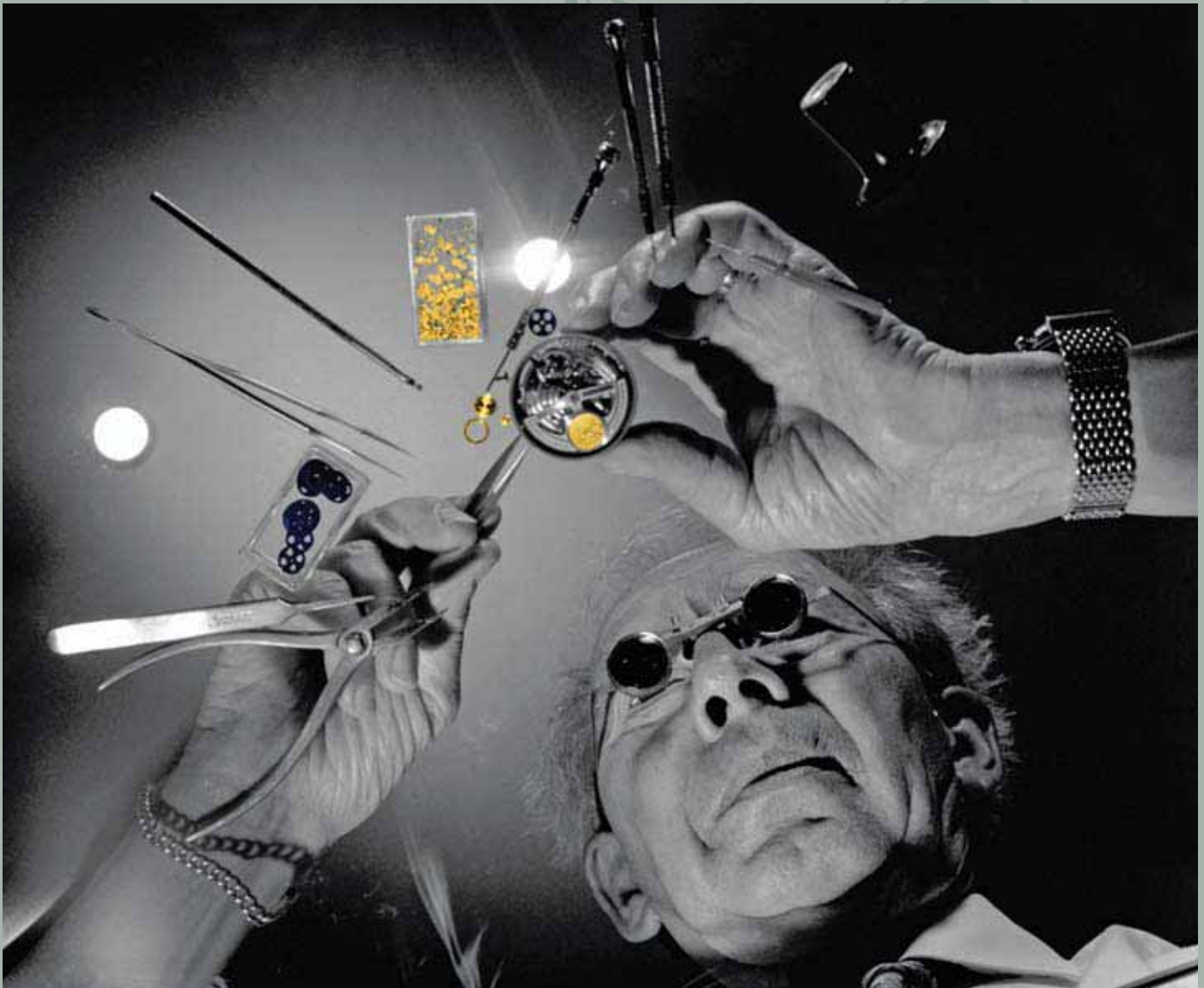
BAHRAIN Clientele

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Way of the Warrior

Bushido under Review

Designs on Serenity

Cooling off at Banyan Tree

Holidays with a Conscience

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People Power

The Art of Faika Al Hasan



The Royal Falcon Fleet 135 by Porsche Design.

The Sailing Superlative

Clientele looks back on some of the winners from this year's World Superyacht Awards and wonders whether the sea can get any more chic

The number of billionaires in the world has amplified in the past decade, as has the boom of the superyacht. Coincidence? Unlikely. Over 80 feet in length and dressed to impress, superyachts have become the big-boy's toy that even Hollywood stars can only dream of. From lush to adrenaline rush, ship builders across the world are claiming their latest releases as 'the best superyacht' money can buy. However, the complex art of superyacht-building can hardly be condensed into one overused syllable. From design to navigation, facilities to performance, each brand of superyacht speaks to a particular type of sailor. All you have to do is decide which one floats your boat?

Performance Pioneer

This is a tough call for the superyacht judges as more builders turn their attention to performance rather than to aesthetics alone. When it comes down to it, the Wallypower 118 is the

Everybody has heard of fold-down sofas, beds or even tables, but a foldable terrace - on a superyacht - is a first.

fiercest speedy superyacht to date. Don't misunderstand; design was in no way compromised. Wallypower plays the field with its captivatingly good looks, but reveals its inner beauty at the rev of its engine. Just like the soap opera, it is as bold as it is beautiful. Capable of reaching a top speed of 60 knots, the Wallypower's state-of-the-art engine and power-to-weight ratio speak for themselves on this 100-plus footer. While it may be accused of being over-complicated for anyone without a doctorate in sailing, the Wallypower 118 is admittedly targeted at the fanatic 'express' yachter who laughs in the face of storms and pokes a finger in the eye of a hurricane. Such bravado is merited seeing as the Wallypower 118 was put through its paces by warship-builders Intermarine. If this boat could survive the rigorous arctic conditions of northern Sweden and sail through Ferrari's Maranello wind tunnel with flying colours, then it certainly deserves a gold star. >

With a top speed of 60 knots, the mighty Wallypower 118 demands the utmost respect.



Interior Innovation

Germans blessed the world with Beamer and Mercedes, and now they have introduced the ultimate in top-of-the-line design. Kusch Yachts recently unveiled the Al Mirqab, a 133-metre phenomenon that stole the heart of judges at the World Superyacht Awards earlier this year. Besides winning 'Best Displacement Motor Yacht' and 'Motor Yacht of the Year', Al Mirqab earned the 'Best Interior Design' title. Ultra-modern furnishing and intricate details by Andrew Winch Designs combined with practicality are the driving force behind Al Mirqab's award-winning cabin. Speaking of practicality, how does one

survive without an interior spa and pool these days? Of course that alone would not win you best of show. Kusch Yachts made sure that Al Mirqab's interiors matched its exterior and overall superior functionality. Even Mr Thurston Howell III from Gilligan's Island could not pull off a boat of this calibre!

Exterior Extravagance

Someone once thought 'wood is gold.' A few decades later, that same someone thought, 'why wood?' It sometimes pays off to be indecisive, especially if it wins you the 'Best Exterior Design' in the World Superyacht Awards. Italian ship-building legend, Sanlorenzo, sculpted the

38-metre alloy Onyx, the definitive sea-borne trend-setter. Clean, defined lines cut around the Onyx, leaving no room for flaws. The vessel's sleek exterior has been styled so meticulously that it almost overshadows the outstanding interiors. Nevertheless, quality engineering still finds a way to bring the outdoors in. Everybody has heard of fold-down sofas, beds and even tables, but a foldable terrace - on a superyacht - is a first. Designer Francesco Paszkowski installed swinging terraces that suspend directly above the water, removing the barrier that often confines yacht cabins. When it comes to exteriors, rivals will find it tough to compete against levitating lounges.

Photo by Gilles Martin-Roger.



German design and Singaporean skill - the RFF 135's panoramic lounge by Royal Falcon Fleet and Porsche Design.

Sailmaker

Despite the stories you heard as a child, the hare will almost always beat the tortoise. The same goes for motor yachts. Sail yachts will never compete, except the 280-footer Maltese Falcon from Perini Navi. For the sake of clarity, that makes the Maltese Falcon the largest sailing superyacht in the world. Although it could easily be mistaken for a modern-day pirate cruiser (no Somalians have placed orders just yet), its three grand rotating masts of 15 sails give the Falcon a distinctive identity, even from a distance. With a capacity for 150 guests, the triple-decker does not only score points in size, but also in decor. This 2006 creation, built for Silicon Valley pioneer Tom Perkins, may not be the freshest fish in the sea but its level of luxury and performance still outweigh more recent sailing yachts. It is not too late to have a go; the word on the street is that the Maltese Falcon is back on sale.



Winner of the 'Best Exterior Design' at the World Superyacht Awards 2009 - the Sanlorenzo Onyx.

Luscious Luxury

Everybody in Bahrain knows that when in need of a trend alert, Jashanmal is the place to go. What could be better than a selection of Porsche Design pens, laptop bags or attire? Unfortunately, with the latest Porsche Design 'gadget' the parameters of your favourite shop will no longer be satisfactory. A collaboration between Royal Falcon Fleet

and Porsche Design last year introduced a foreign species to the waters: the RFF 135. Singapore-based yacht builders guarantee a billion-dollar job on the superyacht's technology. When it comes to design of the RFF 135, the baton has been completely handed over to Porsche Design. Signature lines from the German high-tech designers are written all over it, giving the end result that suave facade typical of Porsche Design. It might be

a little difficult to notice the level of opulence in the pen you bought last week, but the RFF 135 contemporary architecture and space will help you think twice. With a strong focus on comfort and innovation (and possibly cost) high-enders may never see a reason to return to dry land again. n