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Matthew Sheahan reports

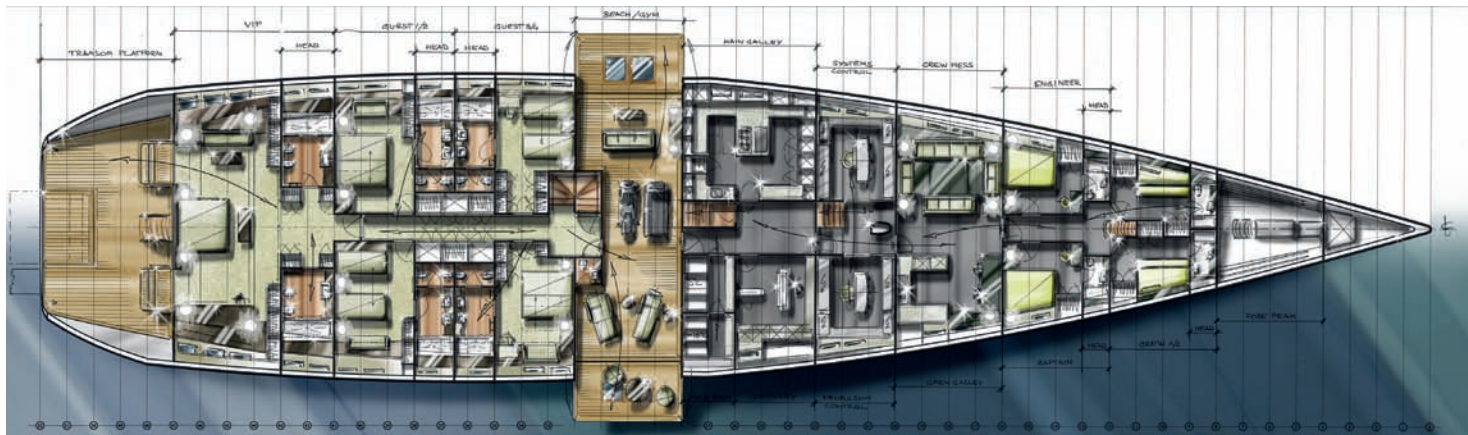
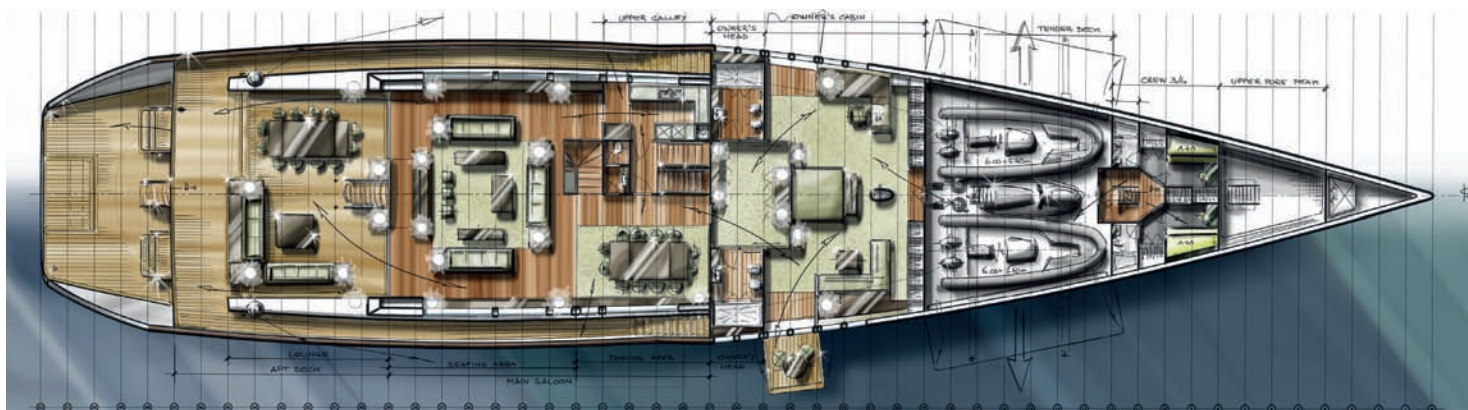
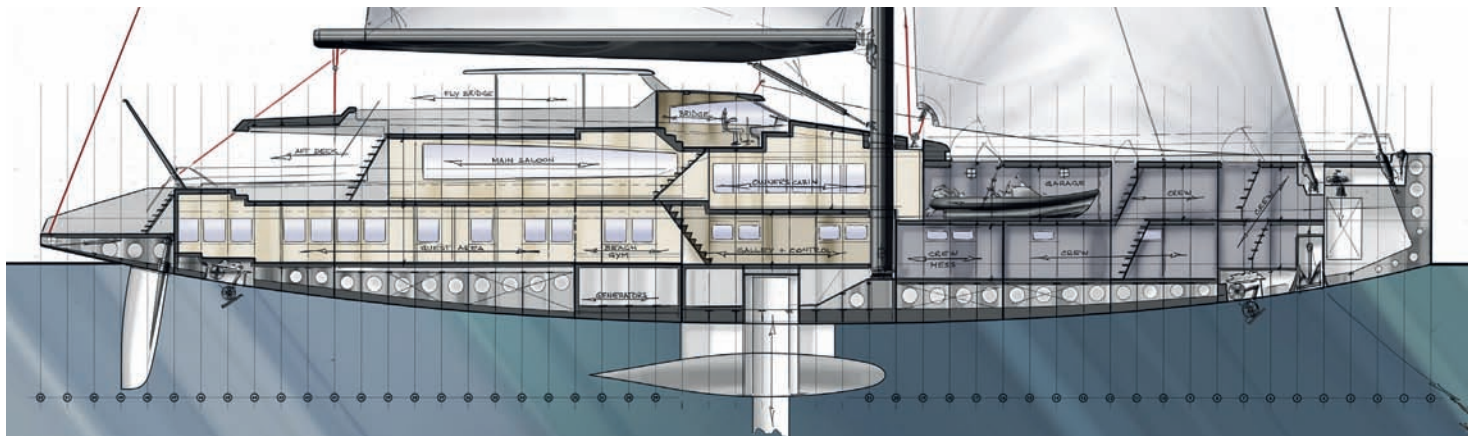
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A BIGGER BARRACUDA



When the 105ft *Akalam* was launched by Pendennis Shipyard 18 months ago we were impressed not only by the yacht's performance, but also by her remarkable accommodation, dominated by vast hull ports bathing cabins in natural light. The contemporary design resulted in magnificent living spaces below and on deck.

This is a much bigger 170ft take on the idea. It has a sophisticated movable water ballast system to limit heel automatically, a retractable daggerboard to improve upwind performance, fold-out swim platforms in the topsides and a diesel electric propulsion system to reduce vibration to a minimum.

Above the waterline Inigo Toledo, whose

naval architecture firm is based in Madrid, has drawn a relatively aggressive, angular shape, the yacht's plumb ends providing a lot of waterline length and the focal point of the deck space being on the flying bridge, which is equipped with everything from a large dining space to a solarium.

Although described as a motor sailer, this aluminium yacht looks no slouch beneath the waterline. She seems to combine the attributes of power and sail, providing many of the accommodation features normally only seen on a powerboat, but even under sail offering similar speed performance.

In fact, Toledo has spent a lot of time tank testing to finalise a very easily driven hull

with a fixed bulb keel and daggerboard set within it. The yacht's sailplan is simple, but powerful and VPP calculations suggest she will sail happily upwind at 14 knots in 20 knots of true breeze, but with heel angle restricted to just 8° by applying water ballast.

Other notable features are the ability to stow two large tenders below deck level forward, an underwater anchoring arrangement, thrusters fore and aft, crew accommodation for 12 on two decks and a similar number of guests aft, including the owner's suite on a half deck amidships where there is least motion. This yacht has yet to go out to tender, but as a design study she is fascinating. www.barracuda-yd.com