

A luxury yacht is shown from a low angle, with its dark hull and a large, curved sail visible against a sunset sky. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the light from the sky. The text 'Brave New World' is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font. Above it, in a smaller white font, is the text 'Alistair Callender is opening up the horizons of luxury yachting'.

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opening up the horizons
of luxury yachting

Brave New World



When a lifelong sailor and lover of boats applies their talents to the creation of boats, it's no surprise that the result embodies the kind of creative thinking and innate rightness of being that exists only in truly important technology. As the yacht business faces tough times and the world faces tough questions about our use of fuel, he's taken his innovative mind and applied it to where these question intersects in the world of yachting and created Soliloquy, the world's first green megayacht.

Callender's career on the water began early, growing up 300 meters from his local sailing club on the south coast of England. "For as long as I can remember, I have been around boats and the water. I was four when I first took the helm of my father's sailing dinghy." One of his fondest sailing memories is also one of his earliest, he reminisces; "I was sailing down to the mouth of Chichester Harbour with my family in our sailing dinghy. I couldn't believe the true feeling of adventure – landing on this 'remote' and 'secluded' beach. It was my very own Swallows and Amazons adventure. Apparently I fell asleep on the anchor on the return journey later that day – due to the incredibly relaxing sound of lapping water to the bow of the boat – it is so therapeutic."

He started seriously considering making his hobby his career when at sixteen, he heard a talk given at his school by Andrew Winch, the world-renowned super-yacht designer. "I knew there and then it was my ideal career path to take – I have been hooked ever since!" He ended up getting valuable work experience at the Andrew Winch Designs office in London, and began his formal education at Coventry University. Whilst only a student, Callender was the only one selected out of 150 others in the course for a six month professional enhancement placement; in his case, in Plymouth, United Kingdom, to work alongside the design team at Princess Yachts International. He has since continued his relationship with the company and has several of his designs for them currently in production. "Very few people are lucky enough to work in an industry they are passionate about," he says, "I have

always been determined to be in that minority." He spends his days on a combination of computer-based CAD modeling work, sketch development work and tangible model making. "I currently work from home, which enables me to work far more productively as no time is wasted commuting. In recent weeks my design day would finish on average at about 2 or 3am, then up again for the next day of creating somebody's dream! Long hours, but I thoroughly enjoy it. The personal sense of satisfaction I get at the end of a project, when I have seen my design creations completed and in production is unbelievable."





His inspirations for his designs vary widely; he says, “I like to try to find new solutions and innovations with every new project I begin. I wouldn’t like to pin myself into a particular bracket of design style. This is because each new brief and client will require a new approach, and I can adapt accordingly, to ensure their personal dreams and desires are created.” In the case of his design for Soliloquy, The ‘Super-Green Superyacht’ was strongly influenced by the design of the Rotating Tower, currently under construction in Dubai. “The ever-changing forms, and beautiful aesthetic, emotional connection was my main inspiration.” Something he feels many consumers don’t know about the design process is the holistic manner in which it is approached. “To achieve a well resolved end solution, every aspect of the brief and objectives have to be 100 percent understood, from the outset, rather than considering things

later into the design process. “ This is particularly important if you want to achieve an eco-friendly design, as with Soliloquy. “My generation is passionate about the planet; fortunately I’m also passionate about superyachts,” he says. “I have always been inspired by one of my sailing heroes’ conservation work, the late Sir Peter Blake. I could not forgive myself if I did such a radical superyacht design to push the future boundaries of yacht design without considering, in every possible way, the impact that my design will have on the planet. This was why I then approached Solar Sailor Holdings Ltd, their technology seemed to perfectly match my green, rigid-wing design concept proposal.”

The simple explanation of the technology that powers this 190-foot (58m) motor-sailer is that, through the patented technology of Solar Sailor Holdings Limited, this eco-luxurious superyacht will be propelled from wind, solar and hybrid marine power (HMP) technology. The vessel can be sailed from only the wind, and/or a combination of her stored electric energy to run the electric motors. Her speed is competitive to other relative vessels, but with the capability to be zero-emissions. As Callender sees it, the advantages of green technology are limitless. He has followed the development of this technology for many years, and while researching his rigid-wing superyacht design, came across Solar Sailor Holdings. “It was the perfect application to my superyacht design. The slightly greater initial investment more than makes up in savings thanks to the numerous advantages the technology can bring.

These include lower levels of vibration, minimal noise, reduced running costs, added resale value, and of course, the invaluable benefit of zero-emissions, compliant technology. “A future owner has the opportunity to invest in a superyacht that causes minimal harm to the environment and has a holistic, carefully managed design approach. That will turn heads and make a positive statement about them as an owner, in a way no other vessel can.”

Of course, with a top-of-the-line superyacht, it’s not a boat where you can skimp on the details. Balancing the desire for luxury with the need for sustainability was a challenge that depended on creative sourcing and being open to trying new materials and products. “Luxury takes many forms, and research shows it is relative and individual to each of us. Through the innovative design of numerous features onboard Solilo-



quy, I hope to exceed people's expectations," Callender says. "The key criteria to achieve the required sustainable stance, was to ensure all materials and construction techniques were selected to be supportive of the brief. More and more firms today specialise in having luxurious and eco-friendly products. Therefore, this brings the opportunity to carefully select materials that are both eco-friendly and also provide its user with the sense of luxury that is expected on a superyacht.

It was said at the announcement of the projects that Soliloquy was originally intended for "an owner of an eco-friendly stance, with a non-sailing background". The vision of the ultimate user of the boat is not been exclusive to these criteria, but it did initially form the basis for the brief, he says. "These points are still valid, but do not exclude those outside of these areas by any means. In fact, the numerous advantages will appeal to owners of numerous desires." The radical, architecturally dynamic form, with her ever-evolving superstructure is truly innovative; something Callender believes will appeal to numerous potential investors. "I wanted to design not only an environmentally green superyacht, but have also tried throughout the process to achieve an innovative design solution that provides an attractive, elegant and highly desirable vessel that many people would like to experience." As to his ultimate buyer, he says, "I believe Soliloquy will be attractive to many high net-worth individuals that see the true potential

for harnessing the 'power of nature'. Those are people that want to be leaders in state-of-the-art technology, or to help make a difference to the future of the industry, whilst they can also minimise their carbon footprint. Soliloquy might initially be for the client that wants to be the first to own a radical superyacht design, perhaps simply because they

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can, as well as clients who just want to experience something revolutionary, whilst in the knowledge they are being eco-friendly."

At this stage of the project, Callender Designs is still in talks with different yards and naval architects and has not begun production, but interested parties are encouraged to, and have already been, getting in touch with the designers. They expect these finer details to be influenced by the client involved. Callender firmly believes that there are buyers out there – "information available shows that historically the superyacht industry has been one of the least affected by

the financial climate, where new builds remain buoyant even during times of recession.”

He expects that overall the direction in which he is going with Soliloquy reflects larger trends in the yachting world that will develop over the next few years. “We shall see more efficient hull design, and innovative methods using renewable energy and propulsion,” within the next five to ten years, he predicts. The green mentality provides an unexpected perk for those who worry they might be compromising the impressiveness of their boats: “I think the average size of private luxury yachts will continue to gradually increase in size. Interestingly, the larger the design Soliloquy becomes, the more beneficial and efficient she becomes: thanks to the scale effect of harnessing renewable energy and also hull length ratios.”

Harnessing free, renewable energies, that are plentiful in the areas of the world that these yacht often frequent, will mean the running costs will reduce, along with the other benefits that will all will be attractive to future investors, in turn pushing more yachts in this design direction. “Rigid-wing technology is certainly the future of efficient sailing propulsion,” he says, and Soliloquy is the first to apply such a rig to be incorporated within the superyacht industry.

This recent university graduate plans to spend his immediate future on the circuit, giving various speeches on Soliloquy – the first will be in Majorca this June, at the fourth annual Future of Superyachts Conference. “Solar Sailor Holdings Ltd. and I will be promoting Soliloquy’s design and technical innovations at various yachting events in the coming months.” He also hopes to continue his own sailing career: “I have been passionate about sailing for as long as I can remember, so I would welcome the chance to sail to the most remote and idyllic parts of the world. I hear the Pacific and New Zealand islands are stunning. This, I think, would be a wonderful place to visit. I am fascinated by visiting new parts of the globe and I always enjoy experiencing new cultures.” Like many sailors, Callender has a philosophical side to him, which has provided the finishing touch to this project. After considerable time and thought, he decided that ‘Soliloquy’ was ideal name for super-green superyacht. “The syllable ‘sol’ in Latin means sun, which is one of Soliloquy’s main forms of clean and free propulsion,” he says. “Also, a soliloquy in a Shakespearean play is when a character divulges his or her innermost thoughts, and deepest desires and beliefs to the world. In this same vein, this yacht is the character that will tell the world that you no longer have to design highly polluting luxurious vessels.” ■

