

A picture of the deck of Merlin where the classic lines of Turkish tradition mix with the modern structural style of the deckhouse. The spaces aboard the sailing yacht are very similar to those found on a large motoryacht.

Designed as a dream boat for one owner, this unique ketch has now become a series and resulted in the creation of a Turkish yard to build it. Tradition meets ultra-modern elements here and the result is perfect for cruising in comfort

MERLIN MERLIN YACHTS



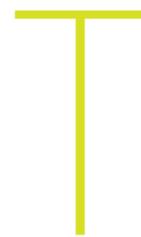
Above, left: the spacious living area aboard the main deck, shared with the dining area. The parquet is in Lantana walnut with a brushed silk finish that contributes to the voluminous effect. Each detail has been created using the best of technology. The areas that are lit naturally by day are lit by LED

lights at night. Above, right: the owner's cabin to the stern with large windows at sea level that give a spectacular view of the water, a legacy of the Turkish gulet. Lacquered wood gleams in all the cabins, a nice colour contrast with the parquet. The interior style is bright, linear and clean with



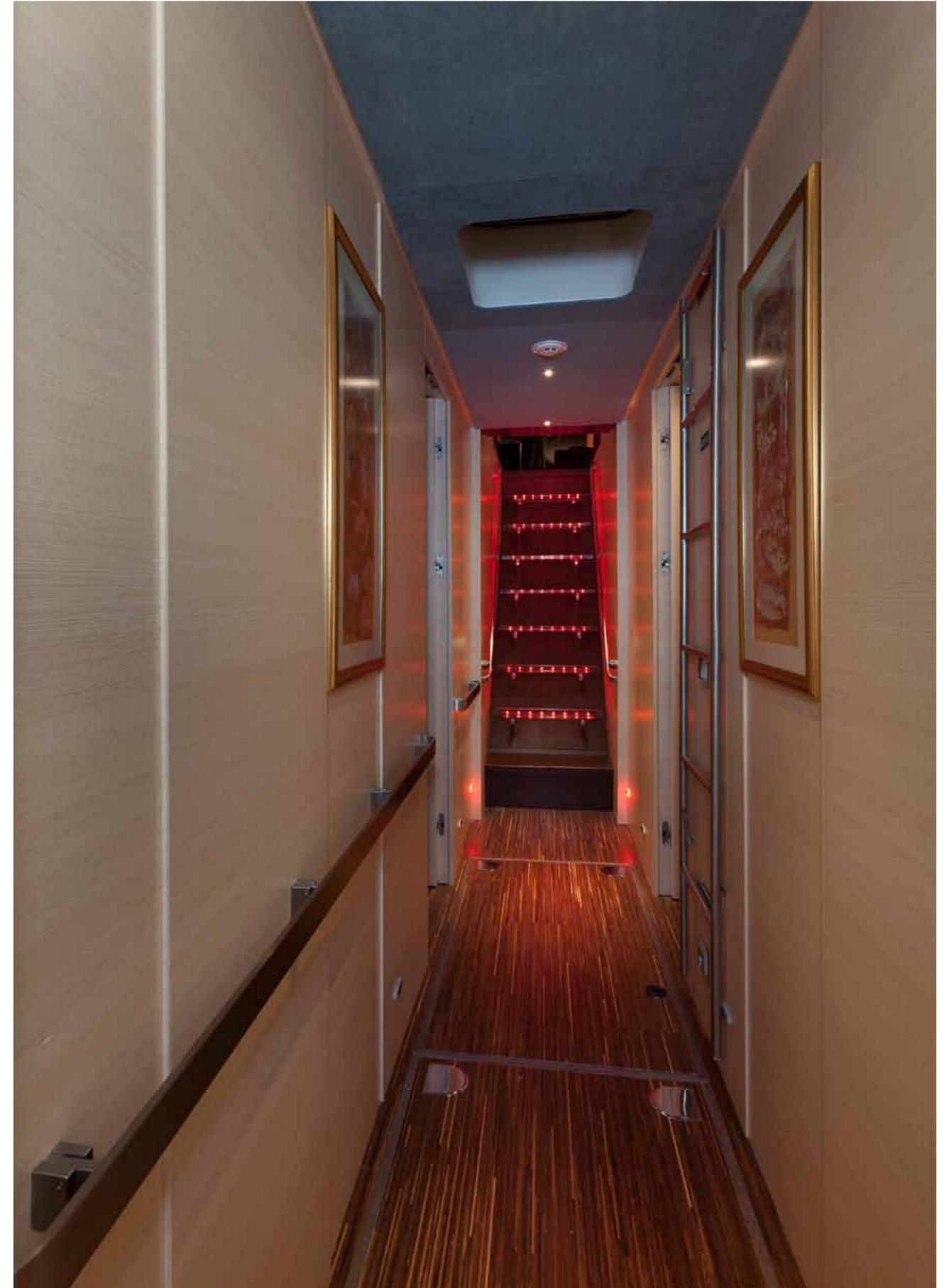
light-coloured fabrics and sobre furnishings. Everything is designed around the concept of bright and airy with large spaces that allow guests to relax and live life aboard in total comfort. Opposite page: an internal corridor with brightly lit steps where the subtle tones of the light colour scheme can be seen.

The basic principle behind this yacht was to create a sailing yacht with the same interior and deck space as a luxurious motoryacht of the same size



This motorsailer is the result of an unusual experience that also offers some interesting pointers to future development. A client commissioned an expert naval architect to design the yacht of his dreams, the craft was built and the end result was so outstanding that the two people involved decided not to settle for one example, but to put the design into series production under its own brand, and so a new yard Merlin Yachts was born. Inspired by the synergy between designer Ibrahim Karatas of Karatas Yacht Design and architect owner Savas Ozgun the yard has now launched the first Merlin, a steel two-masted, two-deck flybridge ketch with an overall length of 36 metres and waterline length of 30 metres. Merlin is an intriguing combination of a hull built along traditional lines and a deckhouse with an extremely modern structure. There is an exciting contrast between the streamlined deckhouse windows and the old-style pulpit and the oversize rails, an effect further enhanced by the metallic livery. "The basic principle behind this yacht," says the architect, Karatas, "is to create a sailing yacht with the same interior and deck space as a luxurious motoryacht of the same size. Our aim was to create spaciousness throughout the yacht. In the exterior design we focused on the fluidity of the contemporary, almost futuristic lines of the superstructure, combined with the classic geometry of the hull, and painting both to create a striking visual masterpiece in shades of grey." Merlin features at least two sunpads, one aft and one in front of the mainmast, as well as a flybridge

sunbathing area. There is also an external hydraulic gangway that transforms into a platform or beach deck to provide guests with a more intimate contact with the sea. The various open-air relaxation areas with sofas and coffee tables are extremely welcoming and comfy, with ample seating scattered all around and a sun pad, all upholstered in Extex, an elegant material that is resistant to damaging external elements, making it the ideal solution in this kind of setting. Inside the deckhouse, the saloon offers a thrilling all-round view and exceptional amounts of headroom. The impression that it's open to the light continues throughout the deck. "We wanted to maximise the spacious, airy feeling," Karatas continues, "also through the mountain ash and maple veneers, contrasting with the moulding and edging. Below decks, the furnishings were designed by Studio Modus Mimarlik in collaboration with the owner, with the intention of opening out the volume of the spaces to a maximum, enhancing the feeling of spaciousness. This is achieved through flowing lines, and the furnished areas are not clumsily encumbered. There is no crowding, just perfect comfort in every corner of the yacht. The whole layout is almost transparent!" The Lantana walnut floor with worked silk surfaces contributes to the effect, as do the lacquered cabinetry in the cabins and specialist ceramic coatings, lacquered panels and marble in the bathrooms. There is a socialising area on the main deck with a lounge and formal dining room, while all the





Merlin has the evocative lines of an eastern nautical tradition with a deckhouse that is similar to that of motoryachts to create more space below decks.



Great importance was paid to comfort on deck and there are various relaxing areas. In fact, the deck hosts two large sun-bathing areas, one to the stern (above, right; where you can also dine in the open air) and one in front of the main mast (above, left; where the table can be lowered and you can create one large sunpad), as well as sunbathing space on the flying bridge. Merlin also has an external hydraulic platform that can also be used as a beach given its perfect close proximity to the sea. There are also other external relaxing areas with sofas and coffee tables that are extremely comfortable. A true welcome to guests who step aboard. All the seats are finished in Extext, an elegant material that is also resistant to all the elements.

The contemporary, almost futuristic lines of the superstructure are combined with the classic geometry of the hull and both are painted a striking grey

MERLIN

LOA 30.458 m

Beam 7.56 m

Draft 3.45 m

Displacement 168 tons

Sail Surface 456 m²

Cruising speed 10 knots

Guest berths 8+1

Crew 4+1

Naval Arch Karatas Yacht Design Ltd

Interior design Modus Mimarlık Ltd.

Exterior design Karatas Yacht Design Ltd

Shipyard Merlin Yachts

accommodation is on the lower deck, with four cabins for 8+1 passengers, including the owner's cabin, as well as quarters for the 4+1 crew. The stylistic choice for the guest interiors has a clear Mediterranean appeal, as it's very bright, linear and clean, with light fabrics and discreet furnishings. Great care has been taken with the logistical arrangement, creating angled sweeps towards the windows. This is not only evident in the dining room with glass table and eight custom-designed armchairs, but also in the highly effective composition of the master stateroom in the deck below, spectacularly laid out at sea level. "We've paid great attention to every technological detail, from the LED lighting throughout the yacht to the state-of-the-art entertainment with music and video systems from Schott, Sony, Bose and Philips for the LCD TV. All the doors are automatic, and when the doors in the dressing room are opened the ceiling lights come on automatically to improve visibility. The crew and service areas like the kitchen are located according to the same criteria near the guest areas, to emphasise the sense of a welcoming home to be shared by all, with easily

accessed spaces for everyone." Sava Ozgun adds: "Merlin was designed to be very different from the usual Bodrum transom type gulet. Our aim was to provide total fulfilment of a desire to create an on-board lifestyle that's as comfortable as possible, and we know that aboard yachts the greatest problem is always a lack of space. That's why we designed the spaces with outside volumes, aided by the colours of the materials, which are never monotone, and the shapes of the elements. Simplicity is the spirit of Merlin, and this has led us to custom design all the door handles, every frame and detail of the furnishings, especially the units and the various compartments and cabinets. By custom-producing every piece of woodwork we've given this yacht exactly the kind of stylistic precision and comfort we were searching for." This design excellence is matched by the yacht's high-tech quality, like the Formula Marine aluminium masts and boom, UK Halsey sails and Harken hardware. The Merlin's ballast keel, bow thruster and hydraulic systems are the ideal solution for smooth, safe sailing and Caterpillar engines provide a range of 850 miles at 10 knots. ■