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INTERIOR DESIGNER RYAN KORBAN





Q & A

ROCKING THE BOAT

How one design-build team creates the ideal yacht

Yacht architects Setzer Design and yacht builder NISI Yachts build dream boats. Their first collaboration, the 80-foot custom NISI 2400, was honored with best-in-class design awards from the International Superyachts Society, World Yachts Trophies committee, and the Robb Report. Joshua Setzer of Setzer Yachts and Katerina Cozias of NISI Yachts talk yacht design.

DB: The NISI 2400 was your first project together. How did you team up?

Katerina Cozias: The collaboration between NISI and Setzer was a natural match; NISI was looking for an architect who would take the risk in cutting-edge hull design and styling, and Setzer was seeking a yard that is willing to take risks with technically challenging concepts that require strong attention to detail, weight control, and finding new ways to deliver on performance targets while maintaining traditional values in build quality.

DB: What goes into designing and building custom yachts?

Joshua Setzer: As custom yacht architects, the work we do is in some ways very similar to that of a custom home architect. We produce highly innovative, one-of-a-kind yacht designs. We work with [our clients] to understand and articulate what an 'ideal yacht' would look like for themselves and their family. This includes both the form

and the function of the yacht, as it must fit not only their unique style and taste, but also their lifestyle and usage patterns.

KC: We build custom projects and provide full engineering support for naval architecture, hydrodynamics, composites, and mechanical and electrical systems.

DB: Does the marine environment affect the design choices?

JS: I once was aboard one of our projects in a heavy Pacific swell and saw an entire, freshly prepared dinner spread, wine glasses and all, slide right off the table and crash onto the floor. So, yes, securing the interior space can be a challenge. [Storage] is designed to always be latched when not in use. Because saltwater is a constant source of corrosion and spotting, special care is put into designing the yacht exterior so that drip lines are minimized and all surfaces are easy for crew members to access and clean. ❧

New Zealand-based Specialist Marine Interiors designed custom interiors for the award-winning NISI 2400GT. "SMI leverages a perfect balance of technology and craftsmanship, which results in the finest interiors, crafted in New Zealand and installed anywhere in the world," says design and CAD manager, Scott Moyses.