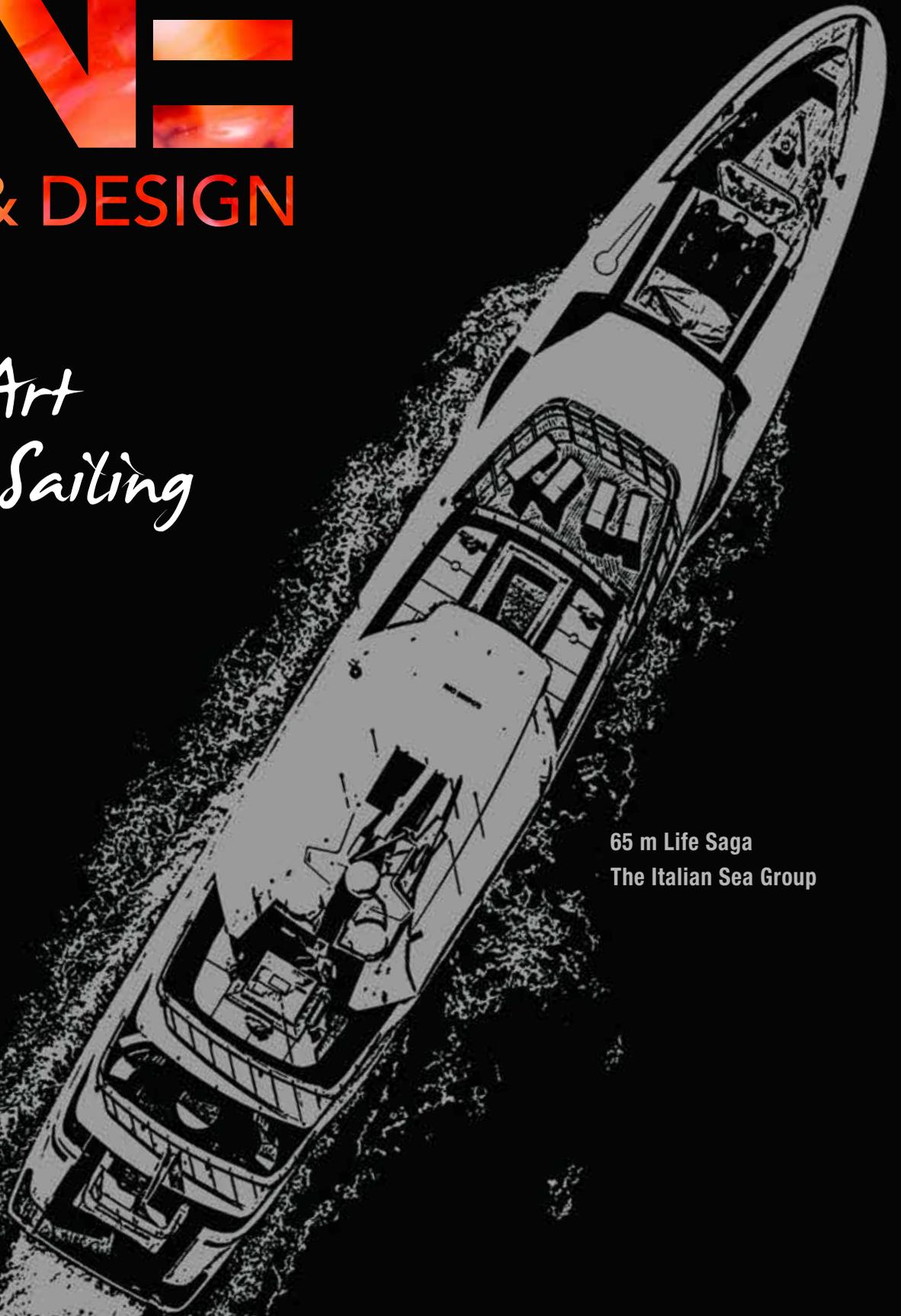


# THE ONE

## YACHT & DESIGN

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*The Art  
of Sailing*



65 m Life Saga  
The Italian Sea Group

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[ MEGAYACHT ]

# *Life Saga*

by Désirée Sormani

An unconventional 65m clothed in imposingly masculine lines and crafted around the wishes of an owner with ambitious sailing plans. Designed and built by the Italian Sea Group, she brims with solutions that epitomise Admiral's current philosophy, with a focus on efficiency, comfort and innovation



LIFE SAGA

The G-Force 65 Life Saga is a very unusual yacht indeed and the result of the meeting of minds between an unorthodox owner and The Italian Sea Group, a yard with a fierce vocation for research and innovation. This alone set the scene set for a craft that would break with current design convention in no uncertain terms. The owner declared that he wanted something special for cruising the world, so special, in fact, that it would be looked upon as a work of art in its own right. Unsurprisingly, his key word for the exteriors was “exciting”.

The Italian Sea Group put together a team of no less than 25 architects coordinated by the art director to interpret the owner’s specifications and mould them around a pre-engineered platform. The result is that Life Saga’s exteriors cut a very powerful, masculine dash. Her hugely imposing lines have an almost sculpted look that exude an elegant authority.

At the aft end of the superstructure, a vertical motif is repeated on all three decks, becoming one of her design signatures. Aesthetically, the regular and dense repetition of vertical elements in contrasting colours is the perfect counterpoint to the strongly horizontal nature of the lines. However, on a functional level, they also act as windbreaks at certain points. Amidships, the windows broaden out and lighten the design. They also succeed in both allowing light to filter into the interior and creating shadows and suggestion. Very much like a large eye that Life Saga’s entire architectural composition centres around. A genuine pause in the superstructure. Completely glazed and partly openable.

Another unusual touch is the unbroken exterior line forward on the lower deck created by a long strip of glass that wraps around the windows in the crew area. This proved quite the technical challenge as at that particular point the hull curves, which means the glass does too. But the design team deemed it essential to keeping the overall look of the lines clean and pure.

As her owner is a sporty sea-lover, Life Saga’s GA was also designed to cater to a variety of different activities from dusk until dawn which meant different areas too. As a result, in reference to their purpose, the main deck has been renamed the “Sea Deck” and the upper deck the “Après Soleil Deck”. From the aft to mid-section of the main deck, there is a great impression of continuity between outdoor/indoor spaces, thanks to a very long sequence of locations, from sunbeds to lounge/bar/game room and even a panoramic lounge. Full-height retractable sliding doors, foldable balconies and opening windows yield a single hybrid environment that is both indoor and outdoor. The same applies to the upper deck where the Après Soleil concept is underscored by a fully glazed dining room rotunda that acts as a buffer between the sunset lounge area and cinema saloon. The sense of indoor/outdoor separation is whittled away to nothing by huge sliding curved glass walls that disappear entirely from view. The interiors have a slightly Asian contemporary look to reflect the owner’s wish for a very relaxed home from home. Somewhere to cast work and business aside and just enjoy life. The owner chose Mark Berryman Design to create this haven. Bespoke furniture, mostly manufactured by Belvedere in Italy, melds perfectly with pieces from the likes of Minotti, Flexform, Giorgetti, Poltrona Frau and SE London. Leather is paired with natural oak, walnut and teak finishes for an easy-going vibe. Most of the woods are wire-brushed and sand-blasted to bring out their grains. The mix of ribbed and embossed fabrics are very textural and tactile too. Special finishes, such as the subtle crackle glaze in the guest corridor, add another layer of interest and texture too.

Japanese references recur throughout – we particularly like the use of oak and walnut horizontal and vertical battens. The circular motifs above the beds also pop up again and again both in the interior and out on deck as the circle represents safety. This is particularly clear in the master suite on the main deck where the bed has been moved from its original position to one almost on the centreline. The master suite is, without a shadow of a doubt, the most beautiful space aboard and incorporates that stunning window amidships. It feels like an apartment in a modern oceanfront residential tower as the expansive floor-to-ceiling glazing is pure architecture.

*theitalianseagroup.com*



Life Saga stretches 65m in length and 11m in the beam. Built from steel and aluminium, she can welcome 12 guests and 17 crew. This shot, the yacht's beautiful imposing lines. Facing page, the cockpit on what the owner refers to as the Après Soleil Deck







These images highlight the interconnection between the spaces and the Asian-influenced décor. The owner wanted a supremely relaxing environment. Circular motifs, vertical lines and a soft, subtle colour palette combine to strike the perfect mood (left the main saloon). The choice of leather, European oak and soft fabrics and their contrasts add another layer of perfection. This page, images of the owner's suite and its wonderful sea views





## Yacht Design and Naval Architecture

### Gian Marco Campanino, art director at Italian Sea Group

**W**e start all our designs from scratch. Owners that come to The Italian Sea Group know that the yachts building here are full-custom designs and the product of huge research and creative tension aimed at turning the owner's needs and emotions into reality. In this particular instance, we had an embryonic design completed with some specific requests from the owner. That was then implemented with the specifications we had shared with the owner from the outset: lots of natural light in the interiors, minimal fragmentation of the interiors, a feeling of flow in the walkways and the way the various areas interlinked. Most important of all, however, was completely blurring the indoor-outdoor separation by using full-height glass walls that could slide completely out of sight, for the first time. This choice meant an exceptional sense of continuity

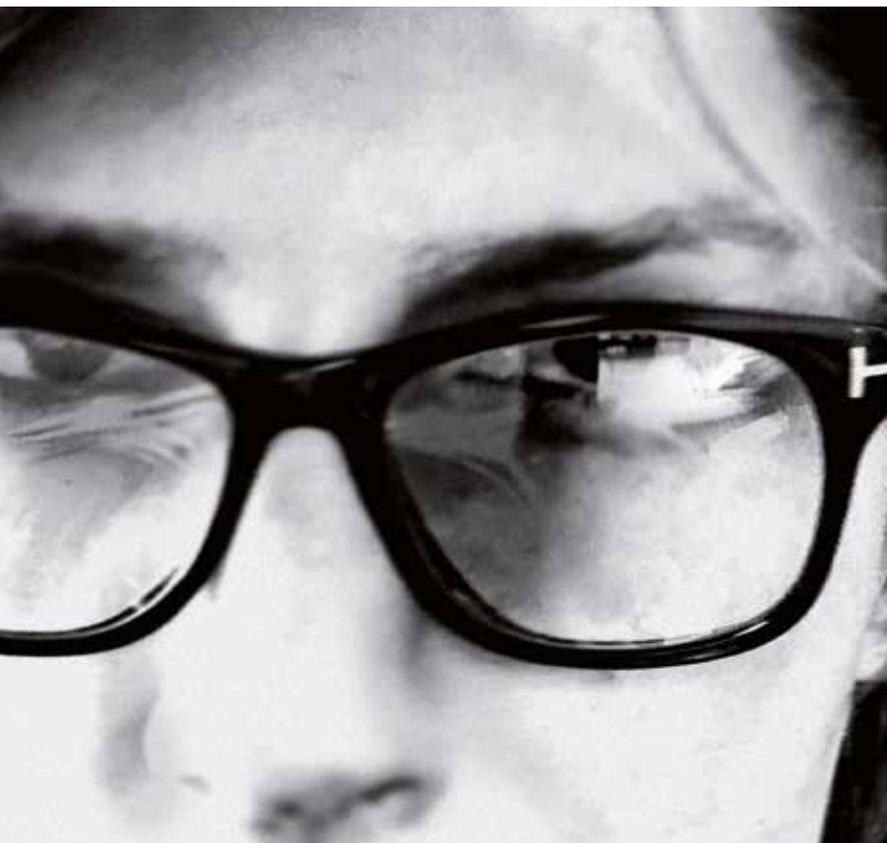
between the various areas on the outside decks and the interior ones. The result was also complete freedom in choosing and configuring the spaces to suit his lifestyle. The owner wanted lines that communicated a sense of power and class but which also reflected his way of dealing with life: with energy, firmness, and, always, kindness. In short, this is the yacht that belongs to someone who is both powerful and a gentleman.

As an architect, I tried to carry over certain architectural features (such as the extensive use of glass walls, for example) to the yachting world which is usually a bit conservative and repetitive. I also took a different tack for the arrangement of the interior spaces: I united rather than divided up the space, ensuring it communicated very clearly with the outside environment and, more importantly still,

with the sea and the beauty of all those spectacular views. The naval engineering aside, a yacht is pretty similar to a piece of design or a villa or – why not! – genuine architecture.

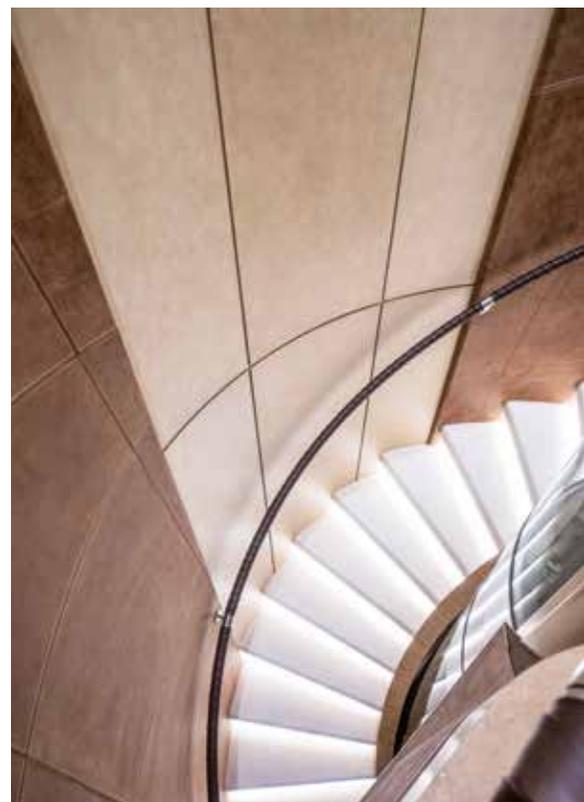
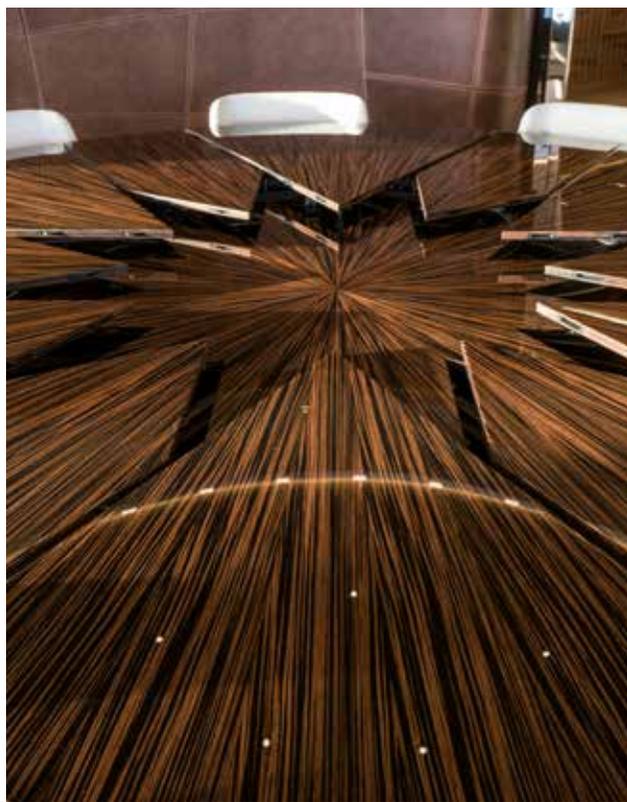
The square-shish, vaguely naval lines really aren't what they seem at first glance. In actual fact, all the hard angles have been softened to nothing with meticulously-executed curvatures and grooves. Where the design shows its muscles, it does so in a very classical, harmonious way, like Greek or Roman statue. In that sense, it is very much a "Made in Italy" design that embraces and reinterprets the very best of our artistic and cultural tradition.

The swim platform leads into the cosy gym/spa area (opposite) which even has an inside Jacuzzi. Impressively, the transom door and the port and starboard shell doors can all be opened up open up to reveal the ocean just centimetres from where guests are exercising or relaxing. Right. The square-shish, vaguely naval lines really aren't what they seem at first glance. In actual fact, all the hard angles have been softened to nothing with meticulously executed curvatures and grooves. Below, architect Gianmarco Campanino





Above, the bar in the main saloon and, bottom, some close-ups. Leather coupled with natural oak, walnut and teak finishes helps create a chilled-out ambience. Most of the wood has been wire-brushed and sand-blasted to highlight its grain. The interior designers have worked hard to gently stimulate the senses with wonderfully tactile finishes. Fabrics have ribbed and embossed textures to tempt the owner and guests to touch them



## Interior Design

### Mark Berryman, Director at Mark Berryman Design

**O**ur first meeting with the Owner was very relaxed. His first comment was that we should think of the interior as a cappuccino with soft, muted fabrics. It had to feel so welcoming that guests would feel relaxed enough to flop down on the sofa and put their feet up on the coffee table without a second thought. So the aim was to create a home from home. Somewhere the owner and guests could forget about business and just enjoy their surroundings. To do that, we used oak as a backdrop throughout the yacht, which is complimented by natural leathers and contrasting woods such as walnuts and teaks. We always like to use oak. European oak has great warmth and works very well with darker and lighter material colours to create contrast. The natural light that floods in the large windows throughout the yacht is very important too. During the day, it allows you to see all the interesting detailing. It has also been complemented with fantastic artificial fittings in the interior and the exterior spaces. The general lighting is created by recessed downlights, but careful positioning of table lamps creates warmth too. Shadow also plays a very big part. It is just as important as a well-lit area and sets the mood. It is amazing to spend an afternoon on the boat and then to see the exterior spaces illuminated when the sun goes down. The light combines with natural teak deck and the exterior wooden elements we incorporated into the exterior spaces to create a sense of warmth there too. One area that was a challenge was the main deck indoor/outdoor space of the aft saloon. It was to have the feeling of an interior saloon yet still allow the whole aft section of the yacht to be opened up to the elements. In fact, the crew had to be able to wash down this space. Consequently, the materials and finishes needed to be hardwearing and the fabrics water-resistant yet still have the qualities of a fantastic interior fabric. The design here is carried through from the rest of the boat and the palette is contemporary with Asian undertones. It is similar to the rest of the interior but also functions perfectly as an indoor/outdoor environment and can cope with all the problems that will be thrown at it!



Teak flooring and hard-wearing fabrics underscore its indoor/outdoor vocation and the owner's desire to enjoy the sea without any constraints. The outside light creates magical reflections and makes the spaces feel even larger



## The Shipyard

### Giovanni Costantino, President at Italian Sea Group

**T**he Owner was looking for a boat that would meet his family's needs. He's a serial owner who'd had previous superyachts built in the Netherlands. He had clear ideas about his new yacht. He came to us at the recommendation of some friends of his who were already clients. This is his first Italian-built yacht.

I think he chose us because we were able to prove we were financially solid and were very capable on the design, organisational and quality fronts. We also proved we were able to produce quality on time.

M/Y Life Saga was a unique project for us. A good deal of the thanks for that is due to the special relationship we had with the owner's and designer's team throughout design and build process.

As is the case with all of our yachts, the project started from the owner's requirements and then developed from that with the whole team involved.

It took a couple of months to pin down the exterior lines while the interior design more or less began as soon as the contract was signed and continued for the entire production process.

It was a calm yet dynamic build that was both fast and very high quality. We didn't encounter any particular difficulties but the Berryman studio's very sophisticated and unusual interior design was meticulously detailed.

I wouldn't say that there were any challenging requests, apart from some unusual materials that we had to source from all over the world: Britain, Asia, the United States..... Life Saga perfectly embodies Admiral's current philosophy, with a close focus on efficiency, comfort and innovation. We like to think she is a yacht with a soul created by the energy of the people that were so passionate about building her. This yacht is an exceptional result for the Italian Sea Group because we poured all our design and management capabilities, our focus on the production process, timing and every aspect of the detailing (in her engineering, engine room, steel, upholstery, furnishings), into her. She is a hugely important milestone for the company in terms of efficiency and quality too. But also one we have already surpassed because we are continually innovating and growing.

So, Life Saga is an important yacht for us, all told. But the next one will be even more so because we are working on new horizons and at an even higher level that we will keep upgrading.

