



RH3 is the first yacht that Antwerp-based designer Vincent Van Duysen has worked on. He has designed the owner's homes and sought to create another on RH3. Here, the outdoor dining area on the upper deck shows his restrained, timeless style. Previous spread: the two chairs on the observation deck are a favourite spot for the owner to take in the views

Some people wait years for the right boat to come along; for the owner of RH3 it was an entire decade. "I saw her somewhere in the South of France in about 2004," the 52 year old recalls, "and I kept following her ever since. I've always followed explorers. I like their kind of 'tug' look." Known then as *Private Lives*, the yacht did once appear on the brokerage market but was de-listed before the Belgian entrepreneur could pounce. Resigned to never owning the object of his desire, he turned his mind to a new build. Then one day in 2013 "a broker friend called and said *Private Lives* was for sale again. It took me two days to decide. I just went for it."

The timing was perfect. The owner has two young sons with his partner and was ready to step away from his business to concentrate on seeing the world. "As a kid growing up in Antwerp I used to see all these commercial ships come and go and I always had this fantasy of going places." The plan is to cross to the Med for summer 2017, before launching on a circumnavigation. "I'm a very curious person, so I just want to discover these places that adventurous people ▶



"If you had been in our home and walked on to our boat, you'd say they felt the same"



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Left: the two-and-a-half-year rebuild at Rybovich in Florida changed many features on the 2003-built yacht, including the indoor dining area on the main deck. An informal dinette has been introduced, lit by highly distinctive large glass lanterns, manufactured by Lebanese firm PSLab. Above: the main saloon aft of the dinette. Below: the outdoor lounge on the upper deck





Left: the full-beam main deck master cabin, with its desk facing to starboard and enjoying great views through the large rectangular windows

"We spent the equivalent of a new boat... but once you get started, you don't stop"

add-ons were the modified transom and new 2.8 metre bathing platform, a large carbon fibre extension to the upper deck and an extra lounging space forward of the bridge. To increase buoyancy, the underwater body was extended aft.

RH3 was a proven performer before the changes, with at least a dozen Atlantic crossings under her belt, and the additions don't seem to have upset this pedigree. "The seakeeping of the vessel is very good," the captain, David Clayman, reports. "For her size, she is stout and deep. She is sturdy and I would rate her seakeeping abilities as well above average for her class." He sensibly avoids taking the yacht out when conditions aren't favourable, but says he has encountered three metre seas while at the helm, coming at 12 second intervals, and that the yacht pushed through it capably, even with the zero-speed Naiads switched off. It was just this kind of no-nonsense, go-anywhere potential that appealed to the owner. "In general, most yachts are about sitting there and doing nothing," he says. "We want to go places, do things. It's all about being real and I think an explorer gives something real to the ocean."

The highly individual yacht gives you all sorts of clues about the owner's lifestyle within minutes of stepping on board. The upper deck saloon is a hybrid space - part playroom and workout space. Exercise bikes sit facing the big picture windows alongside a pair of Keiser performance trainers. There's also an outside exercise space on the observation deck, above the wheelhouse. "It's all about being active, getting up early, doing a workout, going for a swim and then hiking or biking. We have a special bike room, to keep our mountain bikes at the right temperature. It's all just an extension of our lifestyle," the owner says. It's not all unalloyed good health - the owner is fond of sitting in one of the twin chairs ▶