

MarinaLive!

Flight of fancy

IS it a plane? Is it a yacht? Actually, it's both.

The latest superyacht concept design from the amazing brain of Vasily Klyukin is a yacht with a difference.

The Monaco 2050 sports a top deck that is totally removable, which in itself is a rather remarkable idea, but how does one remove it? In this case, the top deck is a VTOL - a Vertical Take Off and Landing aircraft - that takes off upwards with propellers before engaging its main jets at 1,000 metres.

Russian-born Klyukin, who lives in Monaco, is a designer of skyscrapers, extravagant villas, and megayachts. His previous superyacht designs (which we've covered in detail here: <http://www.marinalive.gi/2014/08/08/eccentric-russian-designer-floats-six-of-the-best/>) include a 63 metre swan-shaped concept complete with folding neck, a 78 metre design inspired by Mississippi paddle steamers, and a relatively traditional 80 metre with a superstructure that looks like the Manhattan skyline, Empire State Building included.

Mr Klyukin said: "If I built a yacht for myself, it wouldn't be the same as the other ones. Of course, all the boats are different, but in reality most of them are similar. Even if you would

build the largest yacht in the world, there is always the sea lover who is richer than you and he would beat your record to have the biggest one.

"But he would be a champion only for a certain period of time a couple of years more and the garland will float away on the new boat, bigger than the previous ones. I'm not captivated with such a competition. I do not want to compete at all. I just want a special yacht: one of a kind, I do not want its beauty to float away from me when somebody will build its copy, but 10 metres longer."

The VTOL, far from being a gimmick, would actually be more useful to the yacht than a helicopter. Mr Klyukin said: "It's not possible to cross the Atlantic or to fly to Hong Kong by helicopter. Therefore, after gaining the necessary altitude and speed, it's possible to turn on the jet engines and go overseas."

Let's face it, the Monaco 2050 isn't going to be launched anytime soon - the 2050 in the name is a clue as to the timescale - but the technology is actually not that far-fetched. This bold dream is sure to inspire many other designers in the years to come.

<http://www.vasilyklyukin.com/>

Sunseeker launch 131 superyacht



SUNSEEKER are about to launch their latest creation - a 131-foot superyacht.

Slotting into the existing extravagant 'Yacht' range below the vastly popular 155 and above the equally well-liked 28-metre, at around 40 metres, the 131 is also a near-identical size to the existing 130 Sport Yacht, although with even more technological advancement and customisable styling.

With the first 131 Yacht due to be launched from Sunseeker's Poole shipyard in January 2016, sales director Sean Robertson said: "We're delighted to unveil these incredible new images of the 131 Yacht and show everyone what a special vessel it is going to be. It's set to really build on the success of our proven 40-metre yacht platform, adding more technical innovation, more advanced features

and contemporary layouts that can be tailored in every way to meet the needs of our most discerning customers."

Arranged across three decks, the standard configuration for the 131 Yacht features 10 guests in five cabins, although six cabins are possible with a bit of tweaking to the layout. The master stateroom, salon and upper salon boast feature full-height glass which enhances the already light-filled comfortable living space.

The top speed is a perfectly respectable 23 knots, but at a cruising speed of 10, she will do 1,500 nau-

tical miles and, like her 40-metre sister, all with the assistance of a classic deep V hull.

Sunseeker says that the build time for this tri-deck is around one year and, thanks to expanded and efficient yard facilities, up to five of them can be under construction simultaneously. If you have your eye on one (and the wherewithal to sign on the dotted line, we can't imagine you'll get much change from €20million) your next available delivery slot is November 2016.

<http://www.sunseeker.com/en/range/yacht/131-yacht>

