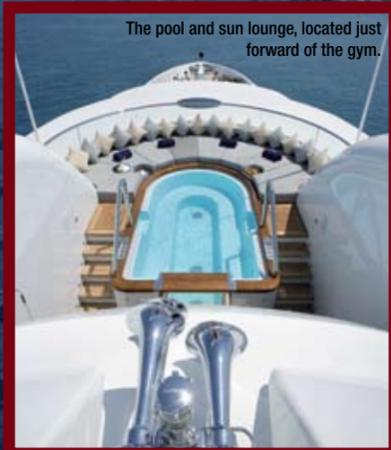


Anastasia

RUSSIAN PRINCESS
AUSTRALIAN STYLE



The pool and sun lounge, located just forward of the gym.



The stern has been meticulously painted for a wood grain effect.



Sleeping under the stars.

From the drawing board of Australian designer Sam Sorgiovanni, *Anastasia* is more than a superyacht – it's a total sensory experience.

words: Frances and Michael Howorth
photos: Buggy Gedlek



Anastasia's elegant spiral staircase is a design focal point.

To many yacht designers, it is what the end user or owner sees when he looks at his yacht that is important. For Australian designer Sam Sorgiovanni, however, looks alone are just not enough; the yacht has to feel right as well.

That may well be the reason why, when touring *Anastasia*, every single one of the senses are engaged and stimulated in quick succession. Sorgiovanni is not content for you to just look at the carpets in the main saloon; he wants you to feel them through the soles of your feet as you walk around; he wants you to notice when you step onto the textured bamboo deck that surrounds them. That is why the deep pile carpets have been sculpted or carved to look and feel like a beach where the tide has just gone out leaving the sand rippled.

Sorgiovanni has in fact set out to design a yacht with the character and appeal of a beach house, and he has done so exceedingly well. It was because he so ably captured the client's brief in this regard that when they first met he was immediately awarded the contract.

Anastasia has been designed and built for an experienced yachting family who felt the time had come to create their own very special yacht. Accordingly, they have demanded a very high specification when it comes to her on-board amenities. The clients clearly knew what they wanted from the designer and had seen examples of his work in the Fremantle-built *Aussie Rules*, the yacht Sorgiovanni designed for Greg Norman, which they had chartered on several occasions.

Working for the Oceanco yard in Alblasterdam, the Netherlands for the first time, Sorgiovanni was not only responsible for *Anastasia's* interior design, he also drew the modern, sweeping lines that define her exterior as well. He chose to style *Anastasia* as a modern-yet-classic yacht with a homely quality, rather than the feel a formal ship.

But while she is a yacht built for relaxation, *Anastasia* has also been equipped with enough toys to enjoy water sports at a very serious level.

"I was told to concentrate on space for tenders and toys," said Sorgiovanni. And that is what he has done. The incredibly spacious garage occupying almost half of the entire lower deck, for example, plays host to a large array of tenders: a 9.5-metre, fully-equipped limousine from Perth-based Vikal International and a similar sized sports runabout from the same supplier. There are another two tenders stowed on the foredeck. The Vikal tenders are unusual in that they both feature drop-down bows for easy beaching and have integral sea legs so that when they are hoisted aboard, they stow on their own legs rather than requiring cradles.

The same garage houses four jet skis and many other water toys including kayaks, sailboards, wakeboards and water skis, all reflecting this European owner's passion for any activity on the water – and below it, too: there's a fully equipped dive store with equipment for 15 people fitted with racks for wetsuits, tanks and ancillary dive equipment. It has the facility to fill tanks not just with air but with the safer Nitrox mix as well. A selection of Apollo underwater scooters makes diving from the yacht even easier and more fun for *Anastasia's* guests.

The yacht's swimming platform incorporates a cleverly designed drop-down section to facilitate easy swim and waterfront access. Deep down inside her 75.5-metre hull, *Anastasia* houses the



The lower deck houses a large array of tenders and toys.



The comprehensively equipped gymnasium.



A cinema is located on the lower deck.



The main saloon in natural tones and textures seduces the senses.



The dining area, separated from the dance floor by the tropical aquarium.



The owner's study features towering ceilings.

Dividing this room is what looks at first like a living painting, but is revealed on closer inspection to be a stunning 2,700-litre aquarium. The colourful, synthetic coral reef is lit from above, and the saltwater fish mean that the vivid attraction is not only easy on the eye, but easy to maintain in pristine condition.

most sophisticated of the International Seakeepers Society's monitoring equipment, which tests the quality of the seawater and electronically submits it directly into special research laboratories that are keeping track of the ecological state of the world's oceans.

Sailing power comes courtesy of twin MTU 4000 series engines driving twin propellers, reaching a top speed of 18 knots. She is expected to cruise at 14 knots, at which speed she has a range of 4,000 miles. Her long, bulbous bow is penetrated by an athwartships bow-thruster tunnel just below the surface, and she cuts a clean wake through the water.

Anastasia is the third yacht to roll off the Oceanco line in recent times, following *Amevi* and *Alfa Nero*. The dark blue hulled yacht features a varnished capping rail to the foredeck that becomes a sweeping sheerline as it progresses aft. The effect is spectacular and startling. Aft, her transom has been painstakingly hand painted so that it appears to be of varnished wood in a style made popular by the owners of *Sarafa*.

Boarding from the aft, the visitor first crosses a wide span of open deck providing the perfect setting for a cocktail party. A single, striking staircase spirals up to the upper deck. Proceeding from the aft deck, the visitor enters the saloon through wide, sliding glass doors. Here, the highly adaptable and multifunctional room is clean, comfortable and contemporary in design.

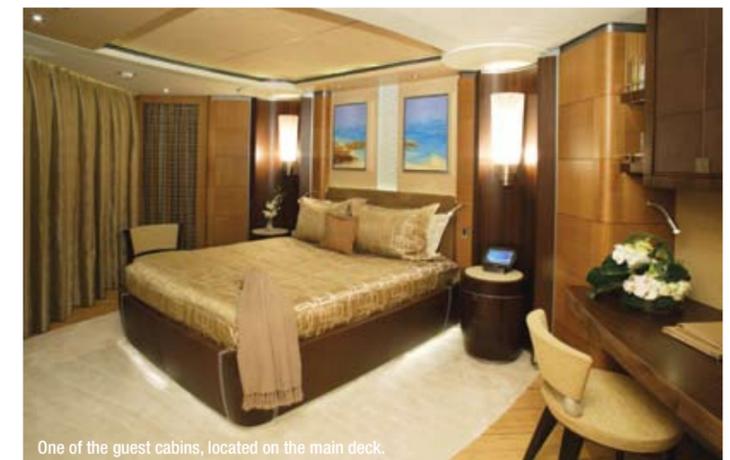
For dancing the night away, there's a timber dance floor complete

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with a disco strobe and laser lighting, decibel-pounding speakers hidden behind bulkheads and smoke machines to add an authentic dance hall atmosphere.

Dividing this room is what looks at first like a living painting, but is revealed on closer inspection to be a stunning 2,700-litre aquarium. The aquarium was manufactured by Living Color of Florida and installed by Sorgiovanni at the request of the owners. The colourful, synthetic coral reef is lit from above, and the saltwater fish mean that the vivid attraction is not only easy on the eye, but easy to maintain in pristine condition. Behind it is a substantial wooden table seating 18, located in a space which must be one of the most pleasingly-designed dining areas ever to be found on board a yacht.

"The design is a mix of art deco meets China", says Sorgiovanni, though we suspect he has added a healthy dose of pure Outback. The Australian feel is emphasised by details such as Eucalyptus, coconut shell, imitation crocodile and ostrich skins, and a mix exotic leathers incorporated into the decor, all of which cry out to be touched. Ceramic-like tiles that look like fossils found on the beach are used on some of the bulkheads, crackle finish panels line others and basalt tiles are put to equally good effect. Woven leather-covered handrails add to the tactile impression. Woods used include American oak for a lighter feel, with wenge and Macassar ebony employed for contrast. Door surfaces are carved and just cry out for the visitor to run their hand over them. Elsewhere, tiles of oxidised copper that have been allowed to acquire a greenish-silver patina adorn



One of the guest cabins, located on the main deck.

the bulkheads. The multitude of textures works so well because it all follows so beautifully the owner's dictate that there should be no fuss nor fiddle, and only the minimum of shine and gloss.

The main deck is an unusual space on which to place guest cabins, but then *Anastasia* is not your usual yacht. Her main deck is home to four guest cabins, two of which are designated as VIP suites. Large windows give splendid views and allow the cabins to be much lighter than traditional designs, which often place these cabins on the lower deck. The yacht's movement is more distinct on this deck, but the advantages of having such light and airy sleeping spaces far outweigh any tradeoffs. The VIP suites have significantly larger bathrooms than the other cabins and boast both a bath and a shower. All four cabins feature pull-down Pullman berths and all are equipped with desks and comfortable sofas. The clever use of down-lights and bedside lights adds to the warm and cosy feeling these cabins exude.

The lower deck may not have guest cabins but it does hold a couple of



Dining on the upper saloon deck.

small secrets: there's a massage-cum-medical treatment room and a fully-fledged cinema, complete with a screen hidden behind curtains that sweep aside dramatically just as the movie is about to start. The comfortable, club chairs from which you watch the action come with electrically operated footrests and receptacles set into each armrest for drinks and containers of fresh popcorn. Oh, the luxury of it all!

The spiral staircase leading down to the cinema is another of Sorgiovanni's masterful designs. Crafted entirely from glass in the Czech Republic and spanning three decks, it becomes darker the deeper it drops, which Sorgiovanni says represents a forest of kelp inhabited by mysterious sea creatures.

The upper deck is sumptuously appointed and features an upper saloon aft of what can only be described as the owner's apartment – 'suite' is far too small and trivial a word to describe it. Split over two levels, the area consists of a study, dressing rooms, a master bedroom, a child or nanny's bedroom and a superbly appointed bathroom that is the height of decadent design. The study has tall windows, leather furniture and a striking desk made of Macassar ebony, the grains of which have been set against each other to give a strong, masculine shape to the surface. The bulkheads have been lined with strips of real leather made to look as if they are from the skins of giant stingrays. The main bedroom on the upper of the two levels has stunning views through both the overhead skylight and enormous side windows and a bed of man-eating proportions, while the double bathrooms are just drop dead gorgeous. The child's bedroom makes clever use of space. Forward of the owner's bedroom is a deck terrace with a table and chairs that is the perfect place to take breakfast *à deux*.

The upper saloon could be counted as part of the owner's apartment should he want it that way, but it is clear from the layout that this is not the way the owning family intend to use it. In fact, they have almost designated it a playroom, with a beautiful card or Monopoly table that



The main aft deck, with its signature spiral staircase.

switches from one game to another with the greatest of ease. Small, discreet glass holders slide out at the touch of the button, as does a small cache drawer in which to keep chips for the occasional game of chance.

A wet bar is manned and maintained by crew who can come and go from the area using their own secret service staircase that leads directly to their own accommodation. The rest of the saloon is light and informal with comfortable chairs and sofas loitering with intent to make guests comfortable. Recycled stone has been used to line the bulkheads in a novel

and intriguing eco-friendly addition to the décor, and the woven, rattan raffia that covers the deckhead adds to this rustic touch.

There is, however, nothing fake about the decks in this room, as Sorgiovanni has used genuine sandstone to create a splendid, beach-like effect. Automatic, electrically-controlled Roman blinds drop down in special recesses to ensure privacy at night should the yacht be docked stern-to or alongside other yachts. The aft end of the upper deck opens up to another bar and a splendid on-deck dining area with a large central

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table surrounded by traditional teak chairs. The crew can make use of a pop-up servery to keep food either hot or cold, so they can set a buffet lunch and then discreetly disappear while the guests tuck in.

Right aft and set into each side of the yacht are two L-shaped sofas, which make the perfect place to curl up and read a book as the ship steams towards her destination.

The navigation bridge is located right forward on the upper deck. It is almost shrine like in its compliance to regulation and is in many ways the



Located aft, the bright upper saloon is designed as a family room.



perfect example of how a well laid out and ergonomically friendly bridge should be. Full marks to Radio Holland, the Dutch firm that completed the task without forgetting that, while remaining a working area, the bridge is part of a luxury yacht and must look the part. Bubble-shaped wings in the ship's bulkheads either side allow for the fitting of external docking stations and give the captain a perfect view of his charge from stem to stern.

One deck higher takes the visitor to the sun deck and yet more evidence of the healthy lifestyle the owners lead. A walk-through gymnasium full of

body-toning equipment, saunas, steam rooms and showers can be accessed from either the forward or aft end. While working out on the machines, you can watch the waterfall as it cascades out of the spa pool, or across the sun deck, which can also be used as either a touch-and-go helipad or a small stage on which a band could easily perform. Right forward is an observation platform offering a commanding view.

What differentiates *Anastasia* from her cohorts is that her design can be seen to really work. Safety features have not been hidden, but rather have been incorporated into the structure. Safety lighting specified by MCA regulations has been made to look decorative, yet remain fully functional in the case of an emergency.

The designer has carefully considered fuel storage for the ship's tenders and toys. A 400-litre portable tank is set flush into the garage deck, giving easy access to refuel the mini craft carried. When the tank is empty, it can be lifted by crane, dropped onto the deck of the working tender and taken ashore to be filled both legally and safely.

Crew accommodation has become increasingly important over recent years as the world's resources of good, well-trained crew becomes somewhat scarce. It is the yachts with clean, spacious and well thought out cabins and crew recreational areas that will find keeping crew that much easier, and *Anastasia* scores well in this area. Crew have their own office with Internet access though dedicated computer stations. A crew of 20, housed in 10 double cabins, look after the owners and their 10 guests and there are two additional double cabins for the owner's personal staff, should he bring them. The standard of the crew mess, dedicated crew galley and cabins is, in yacht terms, extremely high. Working areas such as the laundry and storerooms are equally spacious and well laid out, making this boat one that crew will clamour to work aboard.



There's two Australian built Vikal 9.5-metre tenders in the garage.

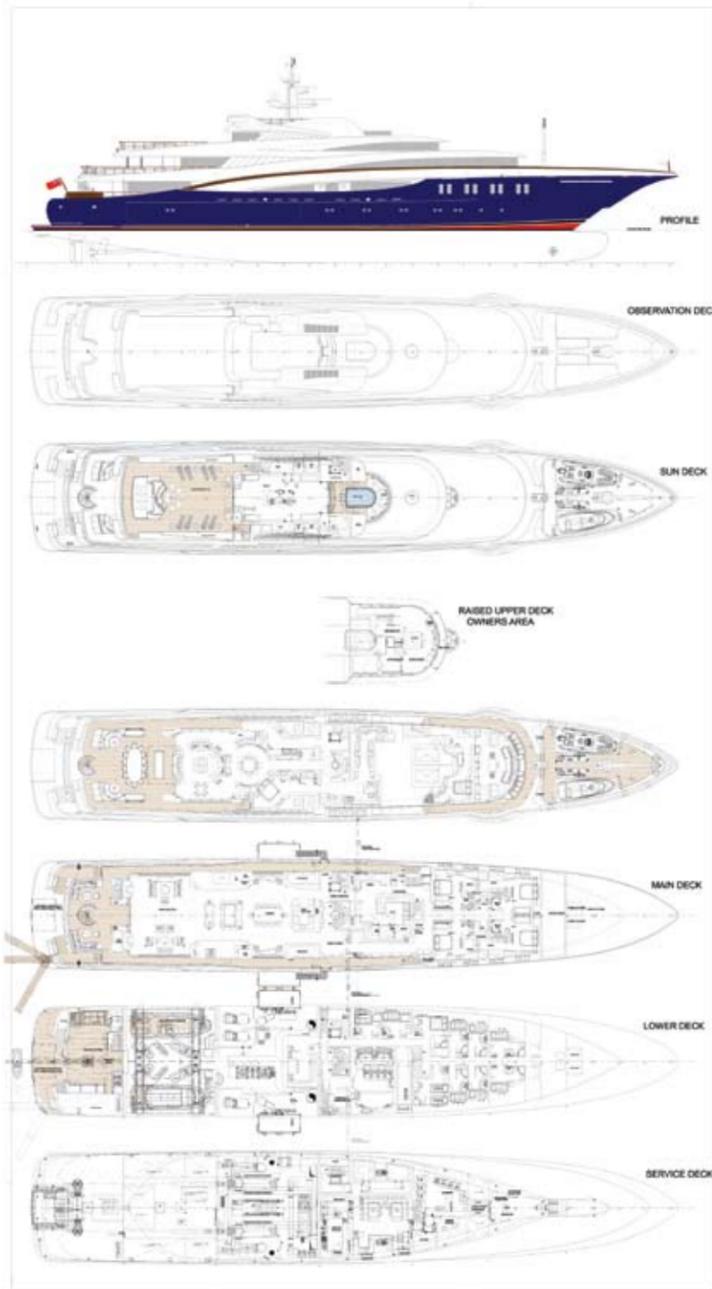
There is no doubt that Sorgiovanni has, in *Anastasia*, created a timeless look using bold shapes and has given the owner exactly what he asked for – a comfortable and relaxing beach house from where he can truly indulge his love of everything to do with water. It's a sure bet that the owner is happy with his boat, the crew are ecstatic with their working conditions, the shipyard workers and management at Oceanco are justifiably proud and the designer is well chuffed. Hats off all round, but particularly to the Australian designer who has truly achieved his brief.

For further information visit www.oceancoyacht.com



The navigation bridge, perched high on the upper deck.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS



75.5m	LOA
63.0m	LWL
13.0m	BEAM
3.86m	DRAUGHT
1,680gt	DISPLACEMENT
Steel	HULL CONSTRUCTION
Aluminium	SUPERSTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION
2 x MTU 4000 V16	ENGINES
2,720 kW at 2100 rpm	OUTPUT
2 x Wärtsilä 5-bladed fixed	PROPELLERS
18.0 knots	SPEED (MAX)
16.5 knots	SPEED (CRUISE)
194,000 litres	FUEL CAPACITY
4,100 nm	RANGE AT 14 KNOTS
90,000 litres	FRESHWATER CAPACITY
3,200 litres	BLACK WATER (CAPACITY)
9,900 litres	GREY WATER (CAPACITY)
2 x 9.5 metre Vikal custom build	TENDER(S)
1 x 6.5 metre Malibu	
1 x 6.3 metre Zodiac	
C Quip	PASSERELLE
Jatstram 250 kW	BOW THRUSTER
4 x Quantum Zero Speed	STABILISERS
3 x Caterpillar C18 360 kW	GENERATORS (MAIN)
Radio Holland	NAVIGATION ELECTRONICS
Radio Holland	COMMUNICATIONS
12	OWNER AND GUESTS
20 + 2 staff	CREW
Awlgrip	PAINT
Lloyds	CLASSIFICATION
MCA LY2	COMPLIANT WITH
Oceanco and Azur	NAVAL ARCHITECT
Sam Sorgiovanni Designs	EXTERIOR STYLING
Sam Sorgiovanni Designs	INTERIOR DESIGNER
Oceanco Alblasterdam Yachtbuilding B.V.	BUILDER
Exclusive Yacht Management	OWNER'S PROJECT MANAGER
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