

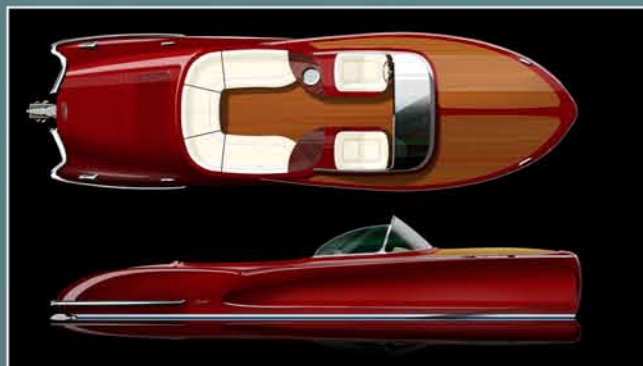
In the spotlight

WERNER YACHT DESIGN

A PASSION FOR YACHTS



Like every year, Jeroen van der Vliet and I met one another again at last Monaco Yacht Show. It is always a pleasure to talk with someone with whom I share the same passion. This year, for some reason, Jeroen asked me where it all started for me in yacht designing. The obvious answer would be "With so and so design, in the year...". However, that wouldn't quite cover the story. In particular it would leave the origin of the passion out. That started a long time before I started designing, when I was still a little chap of nine years old. That was when my father decided that he was getting a hull build and finish it off himself. As if it was yesterday, I vividly remember the day when the bare hull arrived in front of our house. It



was massive! Over the years when the hull was being fitted out, the virus had caught on and I took every opportunity to be on board. By the time when the yacht was finally finished and ready to be afloat, it took its berth very close to Muiden. And every time we were going out, we would be passing Van der Vliet brokers at the estuary of the river Vecht. That was also when I learned that our boat wasn't quite as big as I thought it was. I was gasping at the De Vries Lentsch motor yachts, the Swan sailing yachts and the Lunstoo schooners. What better source of inspiration could one wish for? In the mean time I had come to realized that things don't just exist, they had to be drawn out first. And that was what I set out to do, nonstop. By the age of sixteen, when drawing was slowly becoming designing, I knew that this was it for me. After finishing my study, I set out pursuing my dream. I put on my suite, a few sizes too large, polished my shoes and started ringing the doorbells at every design office in the Netherlands, with a roll of drawings under my arms. Of course I started with De

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Vries Lentsch and Lustroo first, but eventually I met Pieter Beeldsnijder who liked what he saw and he offered me a job in his office.

explore a niche in the market that wasn't there before. Today, some thirteen years later, my work seems to shift slowly towards designs that are somewhat more



In 1997, after working for a few designers and naval architects, and after a few years abroad, I set up my own office and sold my first design under the name of WERNER Yacht Design. This was the one of the very first newly designed classic motor yachts worldwide. It turned out to be a good choice. The yacht became instantly well known, and turned into the public favourite at many boat shows. This design laid out the foundation for a lot of the work I do now.



People who have plans to build a yacht, come to a particular designer, based upon what they have seen of his work. And although I have never designed a yacht as classic as the first one, clients usually ask me to design a yacht that has at least a retro touch to them. This has enabled me to



contemporary. That is a welcome change, because as a designer it is a pleasure and a challenge to be creative within a field of styles that is as broad as possible.

Right now, I am sure that it won't be long before I pass by Van der Vliet again, and see one of my own designs moored in their harbour. Perhaps being a source of inspiration for another enthusiastic little chap.



Theo Werner