



# KING BENJI

154' 3" (47m) | Dunya Yachts | 2024



# KING BENJI

## BASIC SPECIFICATIONS

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### BUILDER

Dunya Yachts

### BEAM (ft/m)

29' 7" (9m)

### CRUISING/MAX SPEED

12 / 14.5 Knots

### CREW

10

### RANGE

4000 nm

### LENGTH (ft/m)

154' 3" (47m)

### DRAFT (ft/m)

### FUEL CONSUMPTION

226 Litres/Hr

### ACCOMMODATION

12 guests in 5 cabins

### INTERIOR DESIGNER

Design Unlimited

### BUILT/REFIT

2024 / --

### GROSS TONNAGE

499 GT

### ENGINES

2 x Caterpillar 1218 hp

### ARRANGEMENTS



# KING BENJI

## KEY FEATURES

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- › BRAND NEW VESSEL DELIVERED 2024
- › OBSERVATION POD ON TOP DECK
- › HOT/COLD POOL ON BOW
- › OWNER'S CABIN ON UPPER DECK WITH PRIVATE ACCESS TO AFT DECK & AMAZING 180 DEGREE VIEWS
- › LARGE VOLUME (499 GRT)
- › MAIN SALON & SKY LOUNGE WITH FLUSH SILL-LESS SLIDING DOORS ON ALL THREE SIDES
- › EXCITING WATER TOY PACKAGE
- › CONVERTIBLE GUEST CABIN (TWINS TO KING)



# KING BENJI

## WATER TOYS

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- › 39' (12M) CUSTOM NOR-TECH TENDER - 3 X 400PH MERCURY
- › 2 X E-FOILS
- › FUN AIR SLIDE FROM BRIDGE DECK (TOP DECK)
- › FUN AIR TRAMPOLINE
- › VARIETY OF TOWABLES
- › 14' (4.2M) NOVURANIA TENDER
- › 2 X SEABOBS
- › FUN AIR CLIMBING WALL TO BRIDGE DECK
- › FUN AIR GOLF ISLAND
- › WAKEBOARDS
- › 4 X SEADOO RXT 325S
- › 3 X PADDLEBOARDS
- › FUN AIR TOY ISLAND
- › FISHING EQUIPMENT
- › KNEEBOARD



# KING BENJI

## WATER TOYS

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› WATER SKIS

› SNORKELING GEAR

› SCUBA OFFERED TO CERTIFIED GUESTS

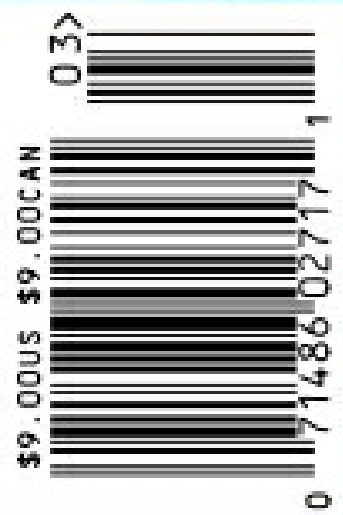


KING BENJI

The personal  
sub market  
after the *Titan*  
tragedy

**UNWINDING  
IN AN  
AUTHENTIC  
POLYNESIAN  
PARADISE**

FORMERLY  
**ShowBoats**



**GET**



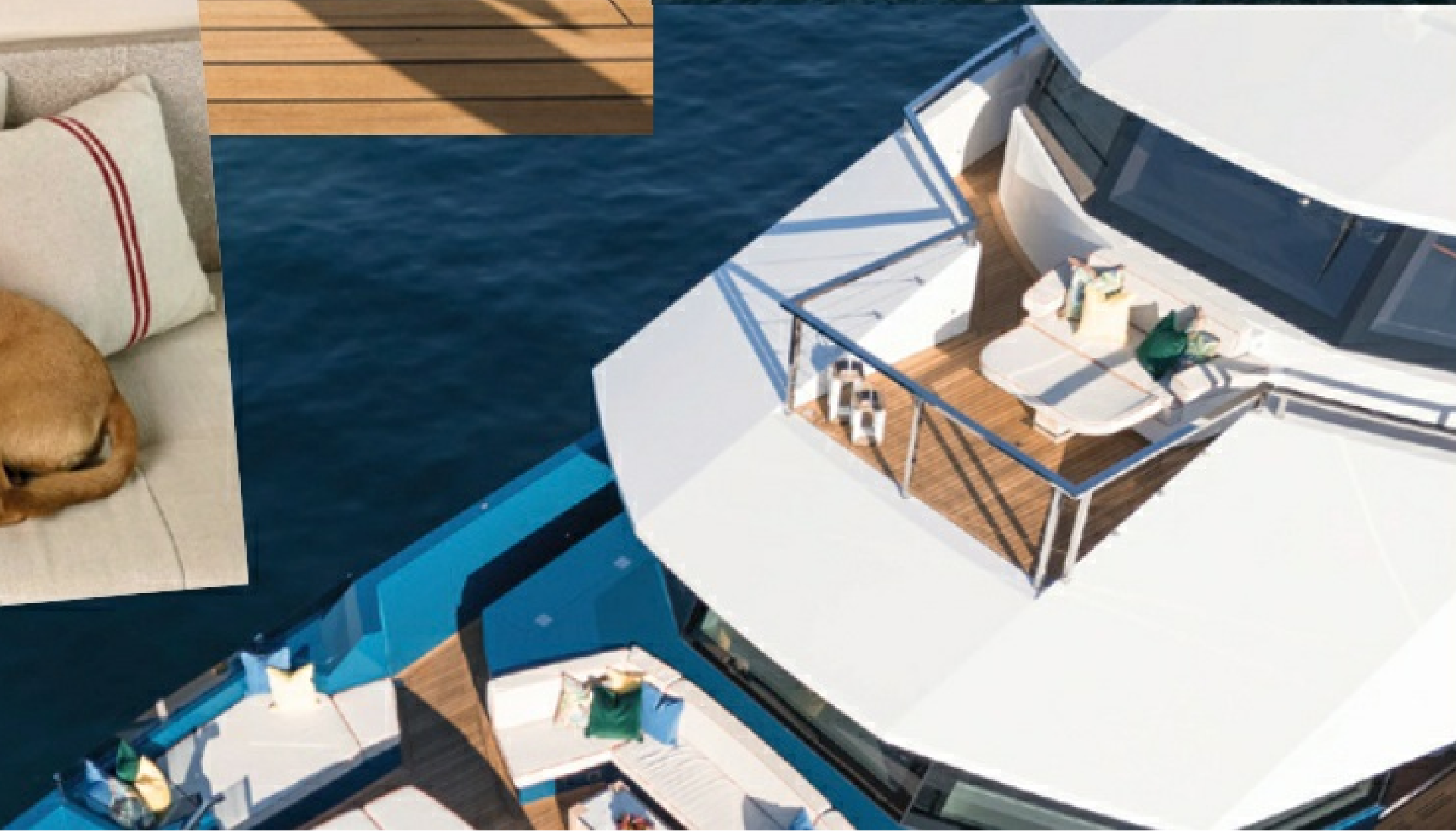




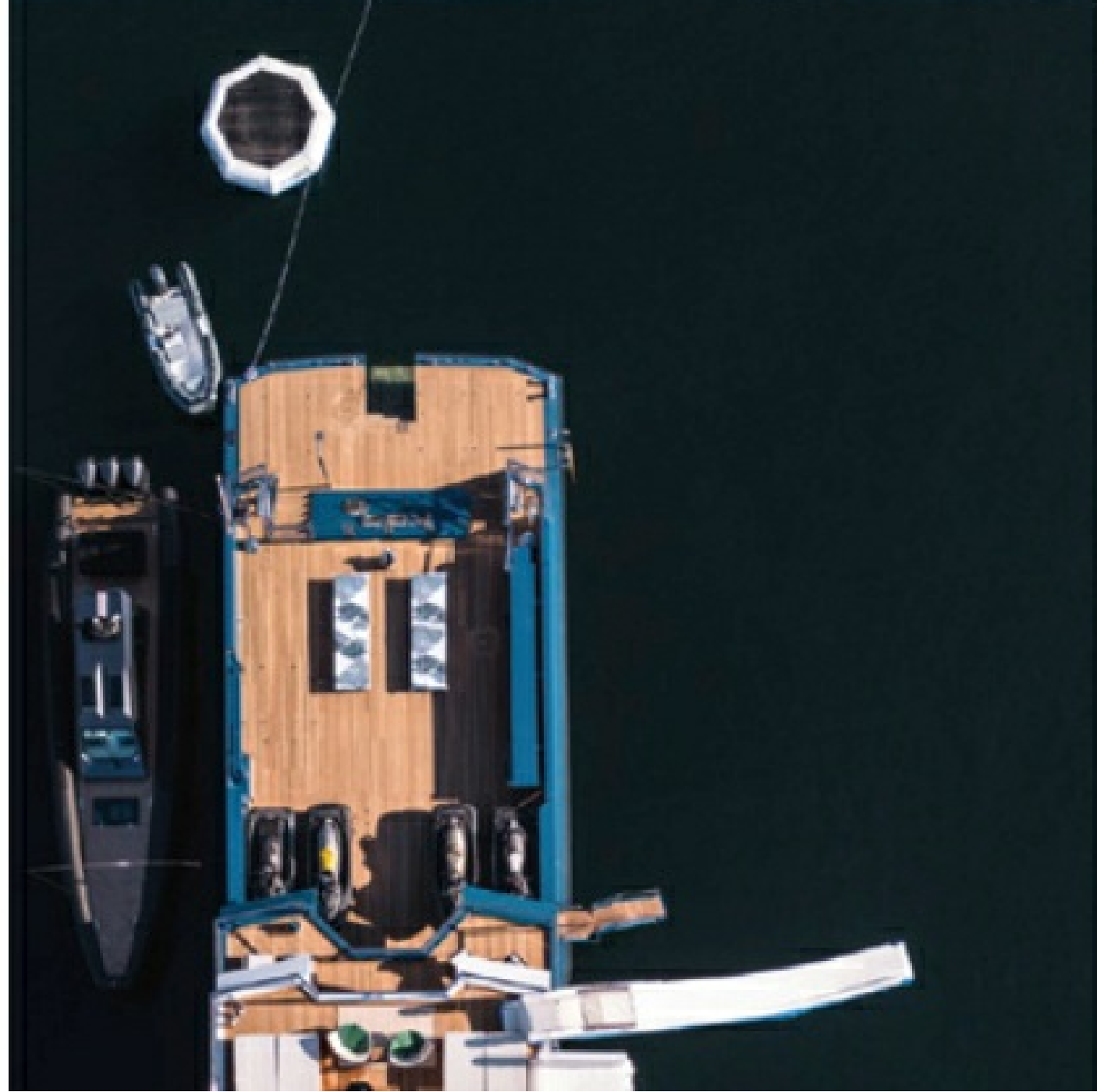
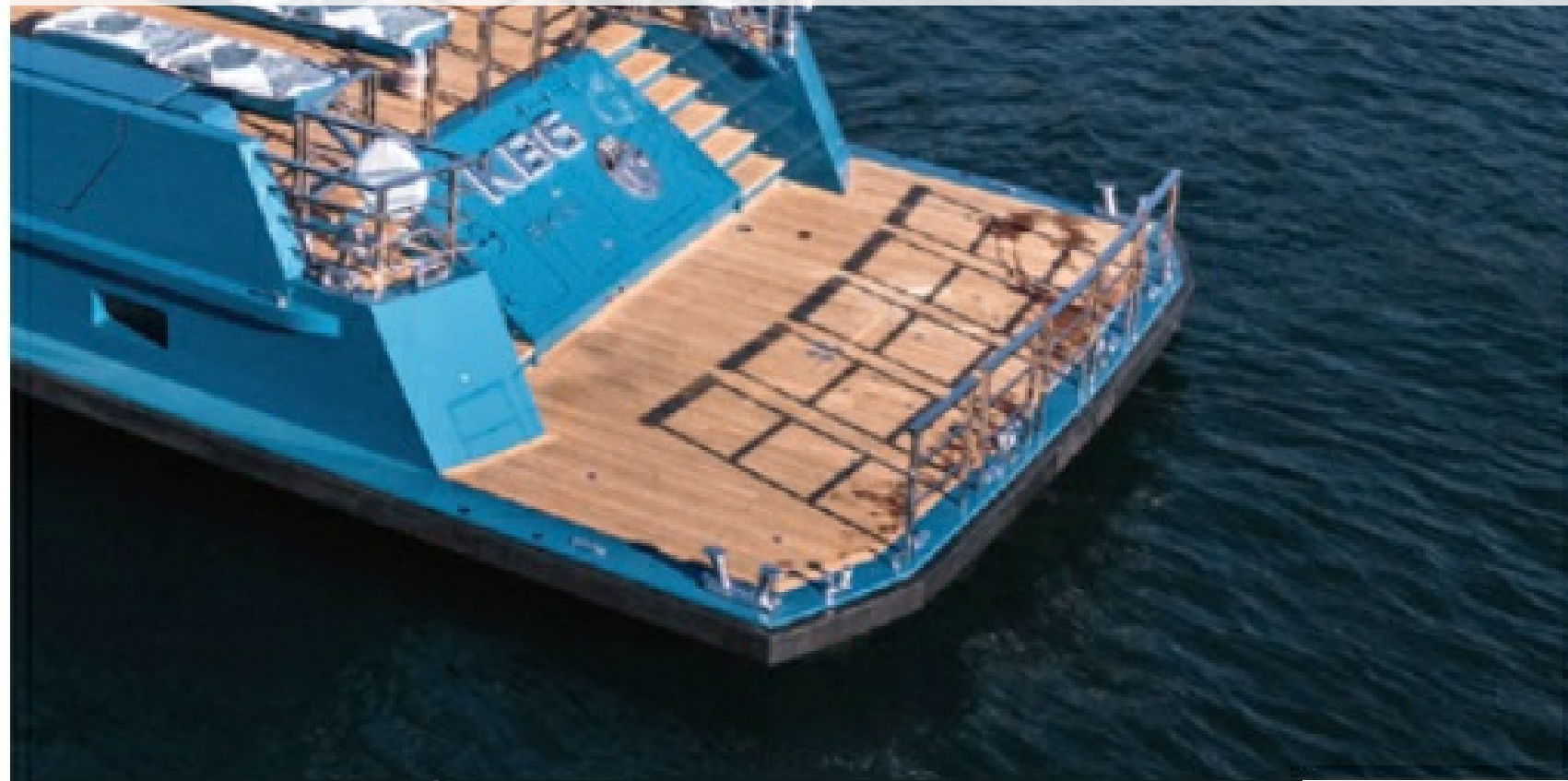
# KING BENJI



Not shown on deck is the 40ft Nor-Tech tender. When the toys are offloaded, custom furniture by Design Unlimited will turn the deck into an outdoor lounge. Left: *King Benji's* namesake







“I

decided to build *King Benji* because I felt like two things were missing in boats under 500GT,” owner Josh Golder says. One was a real connection with the marine environment, “so from any spot on this yacht, you can feel like you’re outside. The second was the true ability for crazy adventures, to have a 40ft tender, four 300-horsepower jet skis and every imaginable inflatable toy on there. The goal was to make something that was focused on doing instead of sitting. I go crazy sitting around.”

On that note, he says of his Nor-Tech 400 Supersport center console: “I love Nor-Tech—it’s my sixth one. I love how it handles in any weather, it’s

**“The goal was to make something that was focused on doing instead of sitting. I go crazy sitting around”**





## KING BENJI



the Victoria-based Canadian naval architect responsible for its design.

It was a couple of weeks before the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show when Marshall and Golder met, and it sounds as if sparks of inspiration flew. They chatted while looking at various GAs in the 115 to 164ft range, which revealed Golder's 10 must-haves. After listening intently, Marshall flipped over a GA and sketched out a profile in ink pen. "Something like that?" he asked. "Exactly that!" Lopez recalls Golder exclaiming.

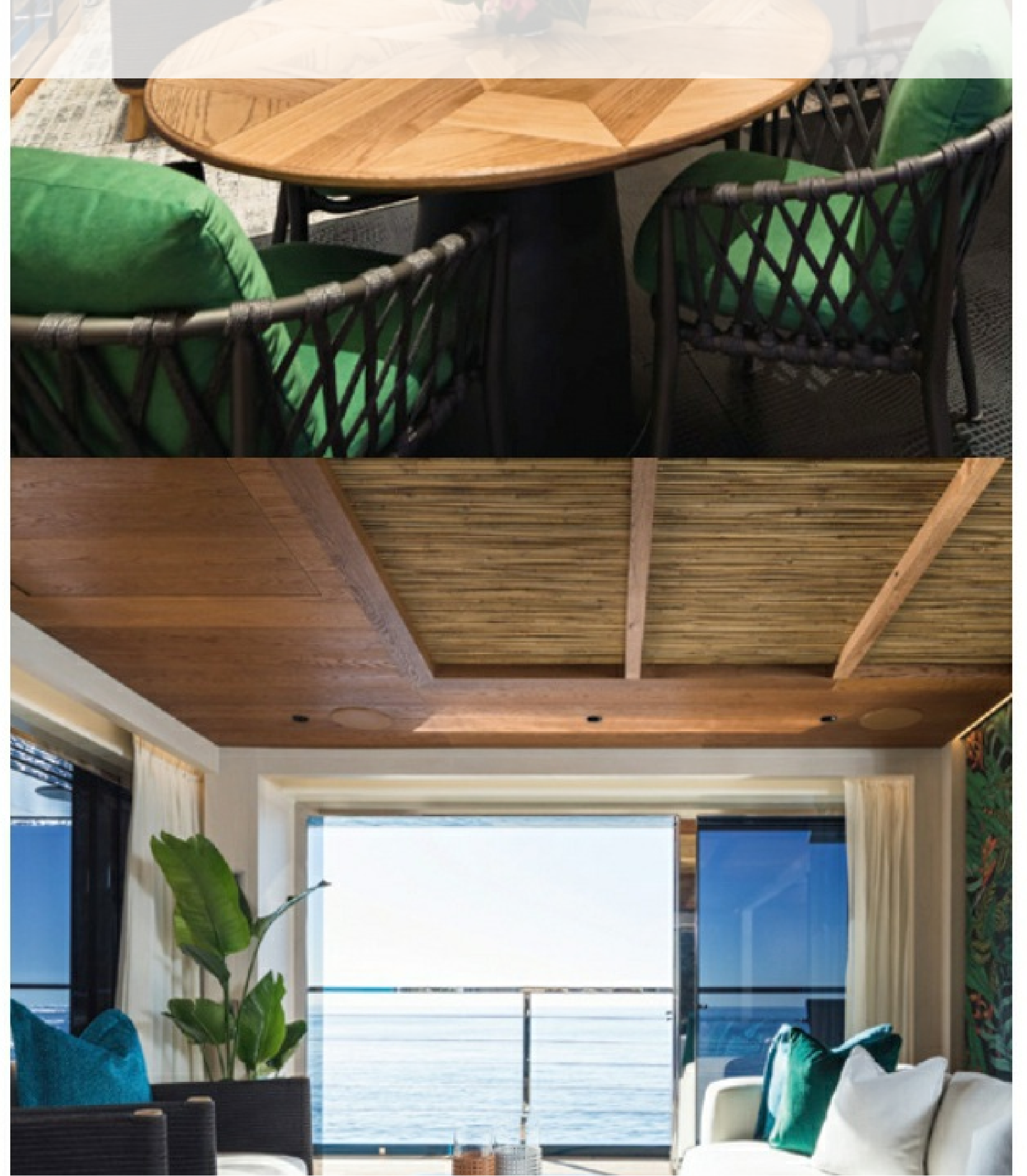
"It was a five-minute doodle on the day we met him. And it's crazy to see how similar it is," Marshall says, looking back on that first meeting. "Every once in a while, you end up with the kind of project that [answers the question] what you would do if you had free rein for the next project. At that time, it was the perfect project, less focused on the interior and more on what you would do with the boat and what fun things you could carry on board," says Marshall, who is an active boater himself. Golder's next

**KING BENJI** level of detail that went into the planning phase.

Through all this, the design team and the builder aligned perfectly. “I am a planner,” says Sedat Ergun, Dunya Yachts’ CEO, who worked on big civil engineering projects in the US before creating Dunya Yachts on the foundation of a family-owned shipyard. He went into it because of his passion for the sea and fell in love with this tough business. The first superyacht the yard built was 238ft, the much-lauded *Axioma*, and one of the late Alberto Pinto’s last yacht interior projects. “If you don’t have a proper budget, then you cannot build that level of quality,” Ergun says. This project appealed to him because of its design and the people involved.

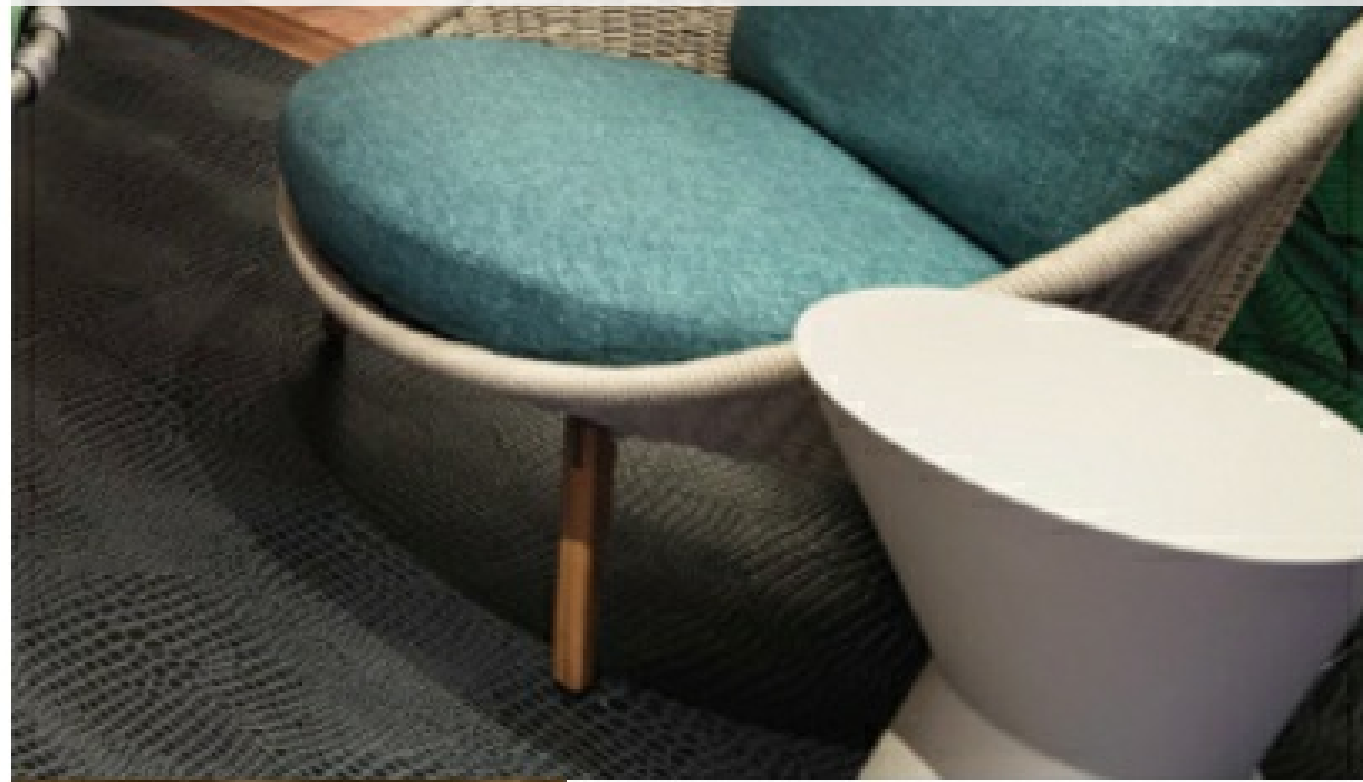
“A long time ago, I was on board *Big Fish*,” he says. He remembers thinking, “This is my type of boat - big windows, very functional, not too fancy. I think I would build it like this.” After several big refits, including confidential projects of high quality, *King Benji* was an appealing new project. The biggest challenge with it, from Ergun’s perspective, was the gross tonnage requirement - below 500GT. “Everything is so much tighter,” he points out.

That sub-500GT condition was a must. “I wanted complete flexibility for myself and anyone that’s chartering the boat,” Golder says. It meant no requirements for pilots, for instance, allowing for spur-of-the-moment decisions to cast off any time of day or night. “I felt that this was a flexible size for people to just

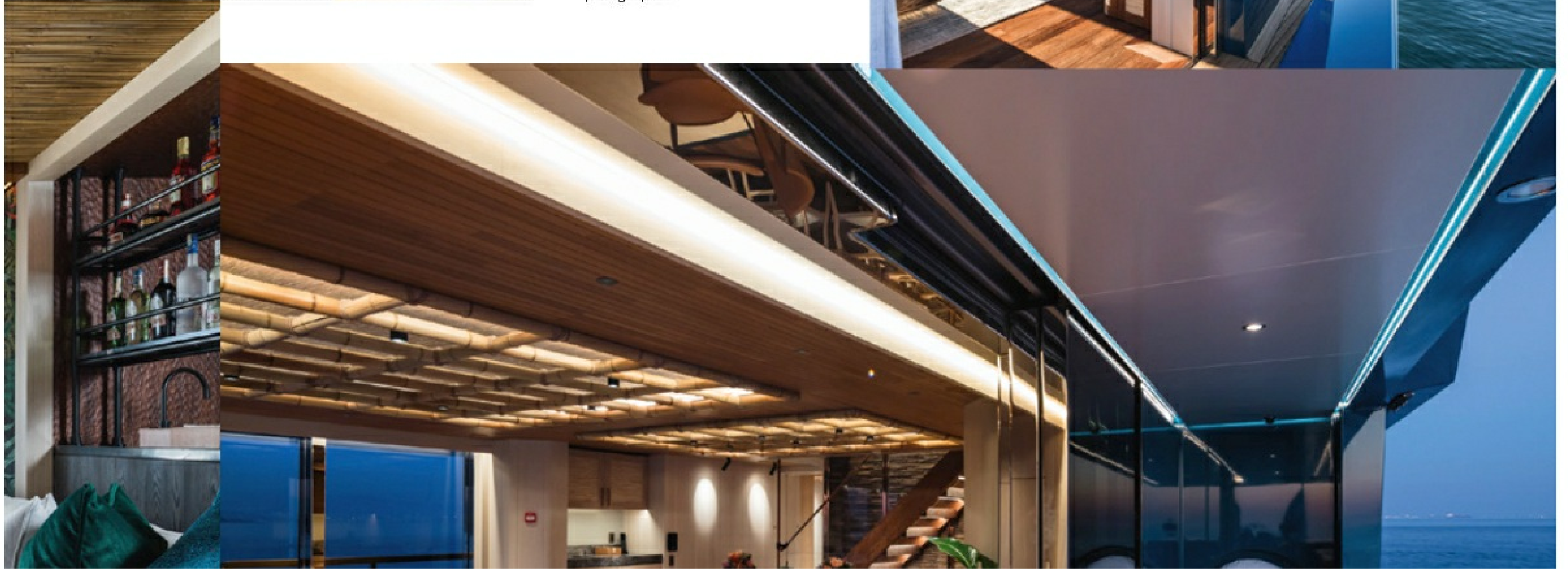




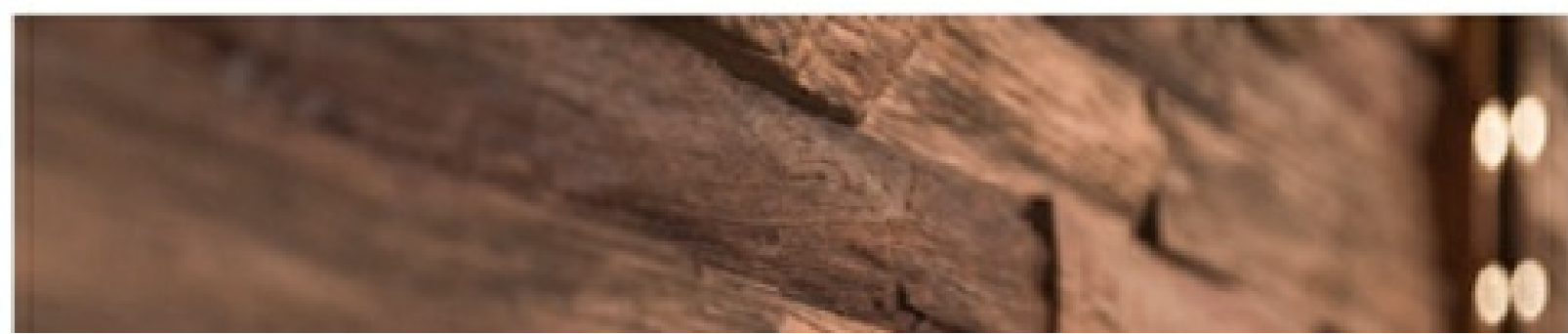
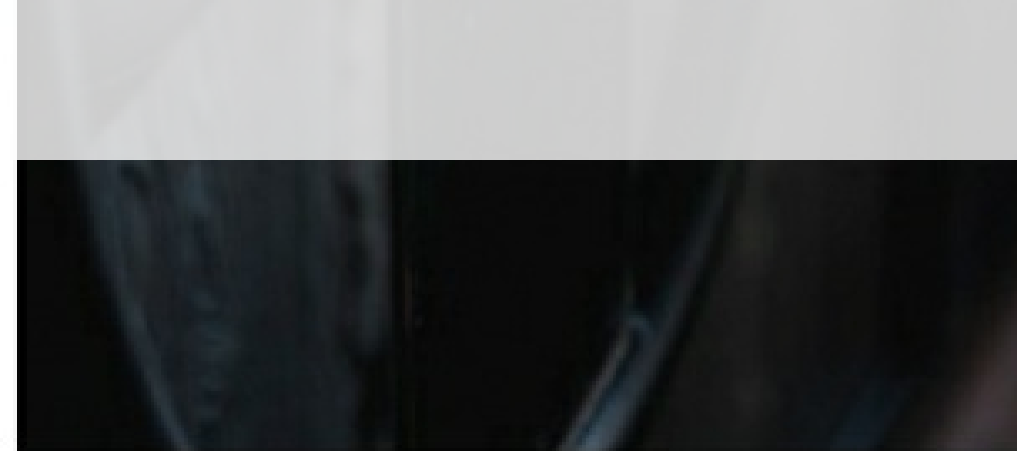
## KING BENJI



Left, top and bottom: the owner's full-beam lounge can open for cross ventilation through large windows and doors. The main salon (below) also opens fully to the outdoors, as does the owner's cabin (right). These big openings were among the boat's most complex features. Above: the owner's deck forward includes a hot tub/cold plunge pool

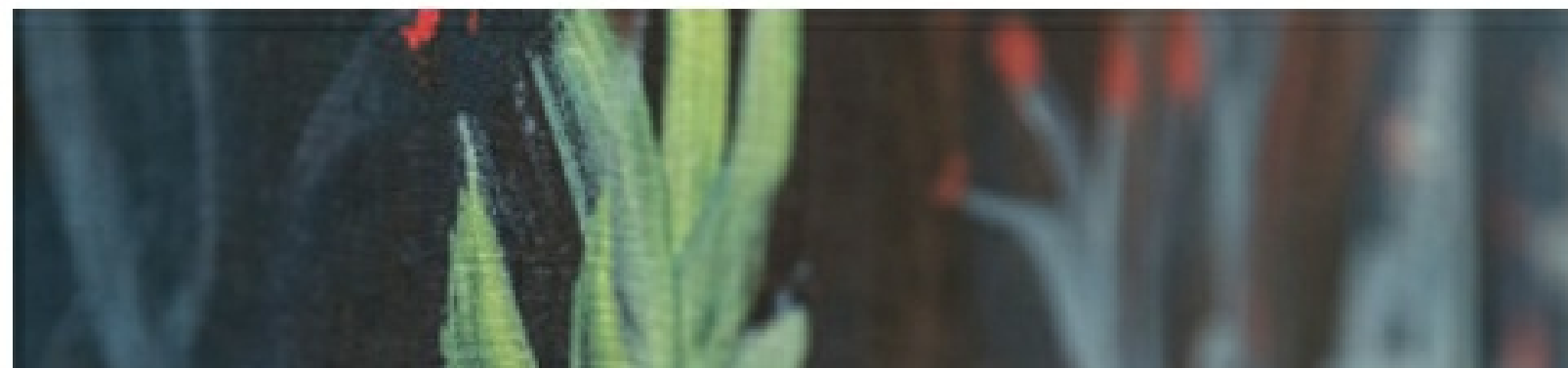
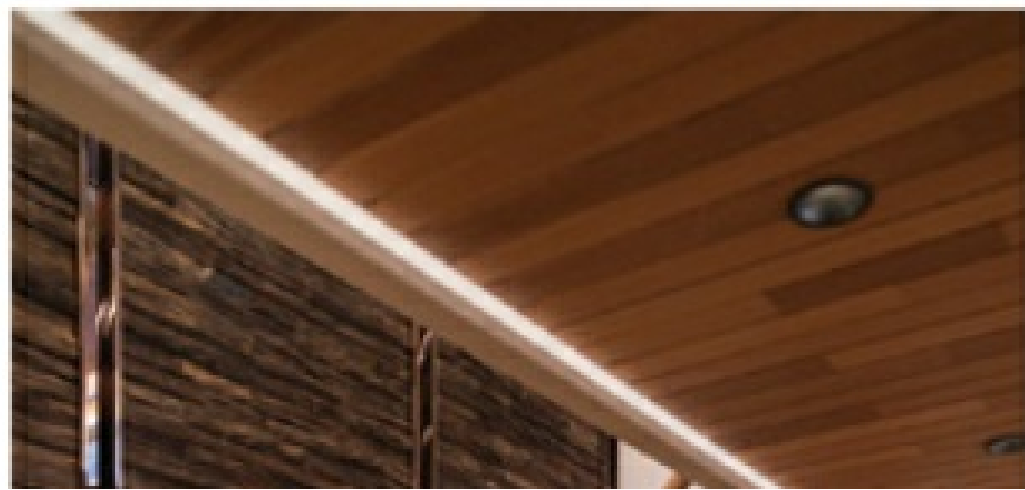
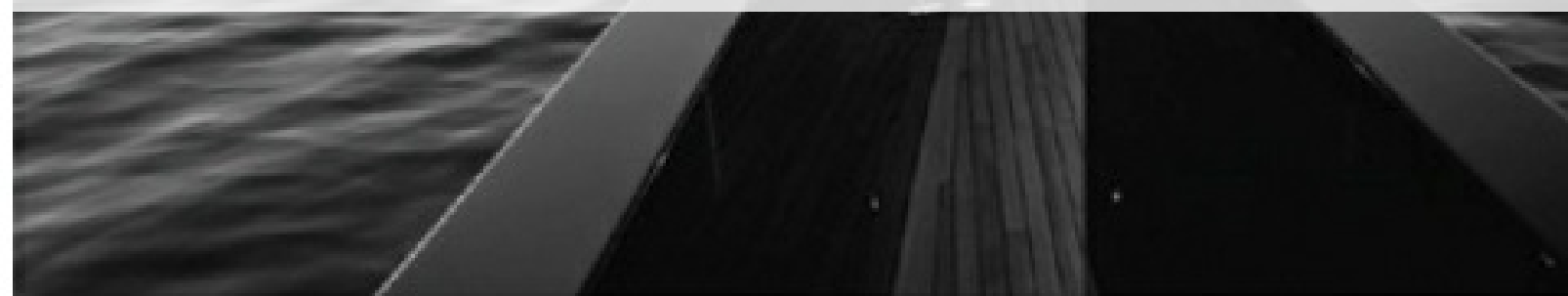
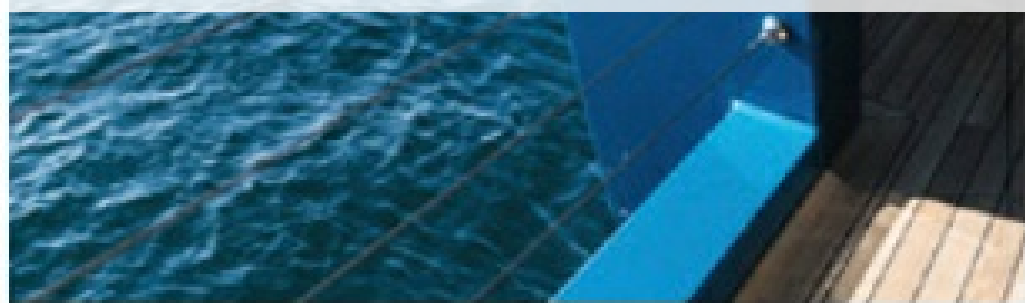


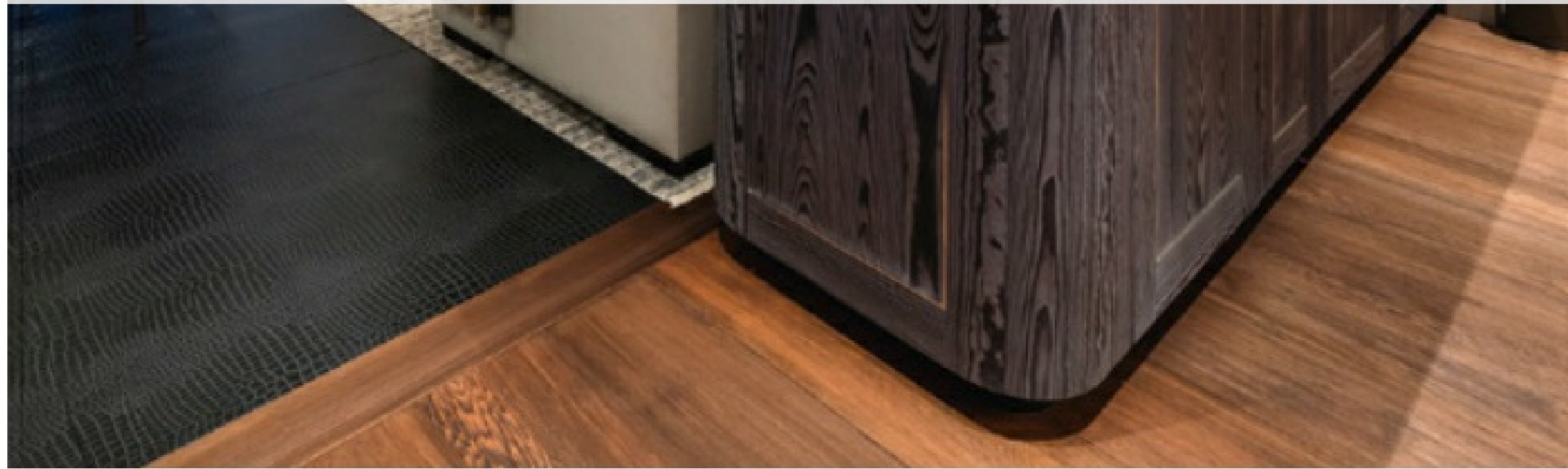
KING BENJI





KING BENJI





**“We wanted something that is first class,  
super detailed but also casual and fun”**







warehouse, a scale model, which they had done with the 262ft *Artefact* previously. “We made a lot of little improvements and changes on the boat in that round,” Marshall says. That was the entire point of this exercise. After making notes, marks and cuts, they asked the owner to come back a few days later to try out the newly modified spaces.

“We went up there and wore 3D goggles

“It was really important that it was, you know, an objective standard,” Golder says.

Golder left it up to his team to make recommendations and, although he did visit the shipyard before signing the contract, he did not get involved beyond the development and design phase. He never felt a need to visit the construction site, in Pendik, on the western side of Istanbul. As of this writing, he has not done what I have, which is to say, walked through the actual yacht, but he is eagerly looking forward to doing so.

When I saw the yacht, she was docked stern-to in a discreet spot at the shipyard. For its size and the amount of open space - the aft deck is truly impressive with its massive crane, which lifts up to 10 tons - the boat lives large. Stabilized with a Naiad fin system, *King Benji* has a crew's nest accessed via a

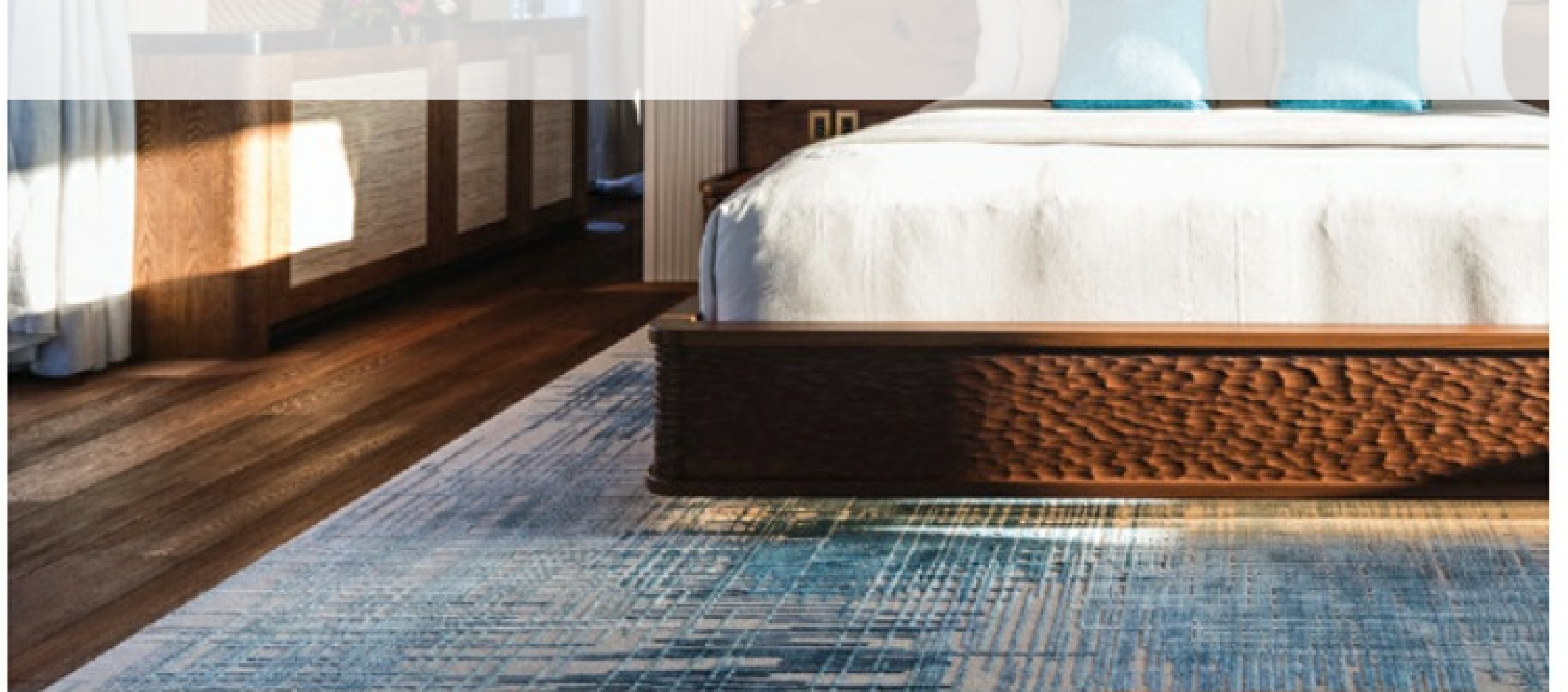
that nearly disappear into the superstructure - 12 of them - were, from Marshall's point of view, the toughest challenge. It was so important to maintain this connection with the outdoors that at one point during the concept phase, he and Golder even discussed the need for walls. "To get windows that big through class down in a hull in that part of the boat is quite a feat," Marshall says. "The whole upper salon sides and aft bulkheads open almost entirely, and when you look at those doors, you know they are all serious ocean-going doors."

Something I *can* appreciate on my visit though, is the interior decor by Design Unlimited, which is colorful and fun - graphic wallpapers from Adam Ellis Studio and Pierre Frey, natural bamboo ceilings and wooden floors define the themed spaces (sea-inspired, tropical and a bit moodier on the upper deck).

The British design studio might have missed the chance to create

*Shadow* (a successor to *Pink Gin*), then under construction at the Damen shipyard in Turkey.

Very quickly the team at Design Unlimited learned a few things about their client: he has an aversion to white, which reminds him of hospitals, eschews the trend for subdued grayish and neutral decor and makes quick decisions. "I told them every wall has to be so crazy that if someone were to come on this boat, they would want to

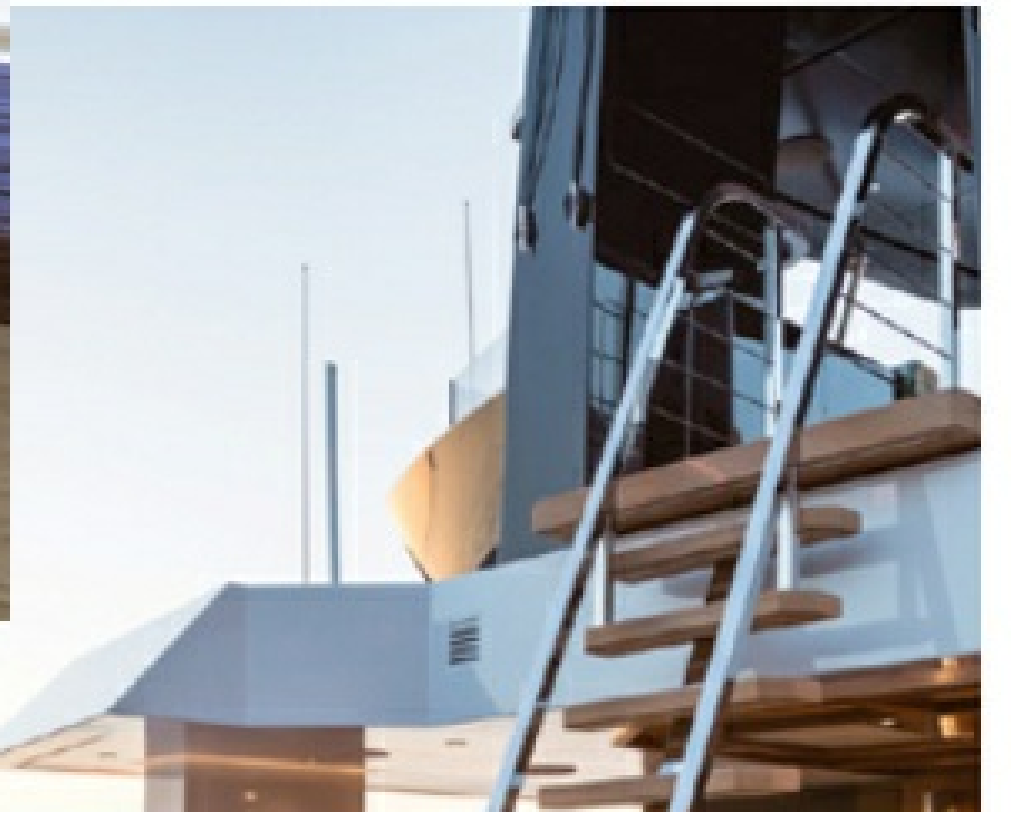




# KING BENJI



Top: the owner's suite on its own deck boasts panoramic views. Bottom left: the guest cabins feature headboards made of reclaimed timber and wallpaper by Adam Ellis and Pierre Frey. Below: from the bridge deck aft, guests can climb a ladder to access the crow's nest



## KING BENJI

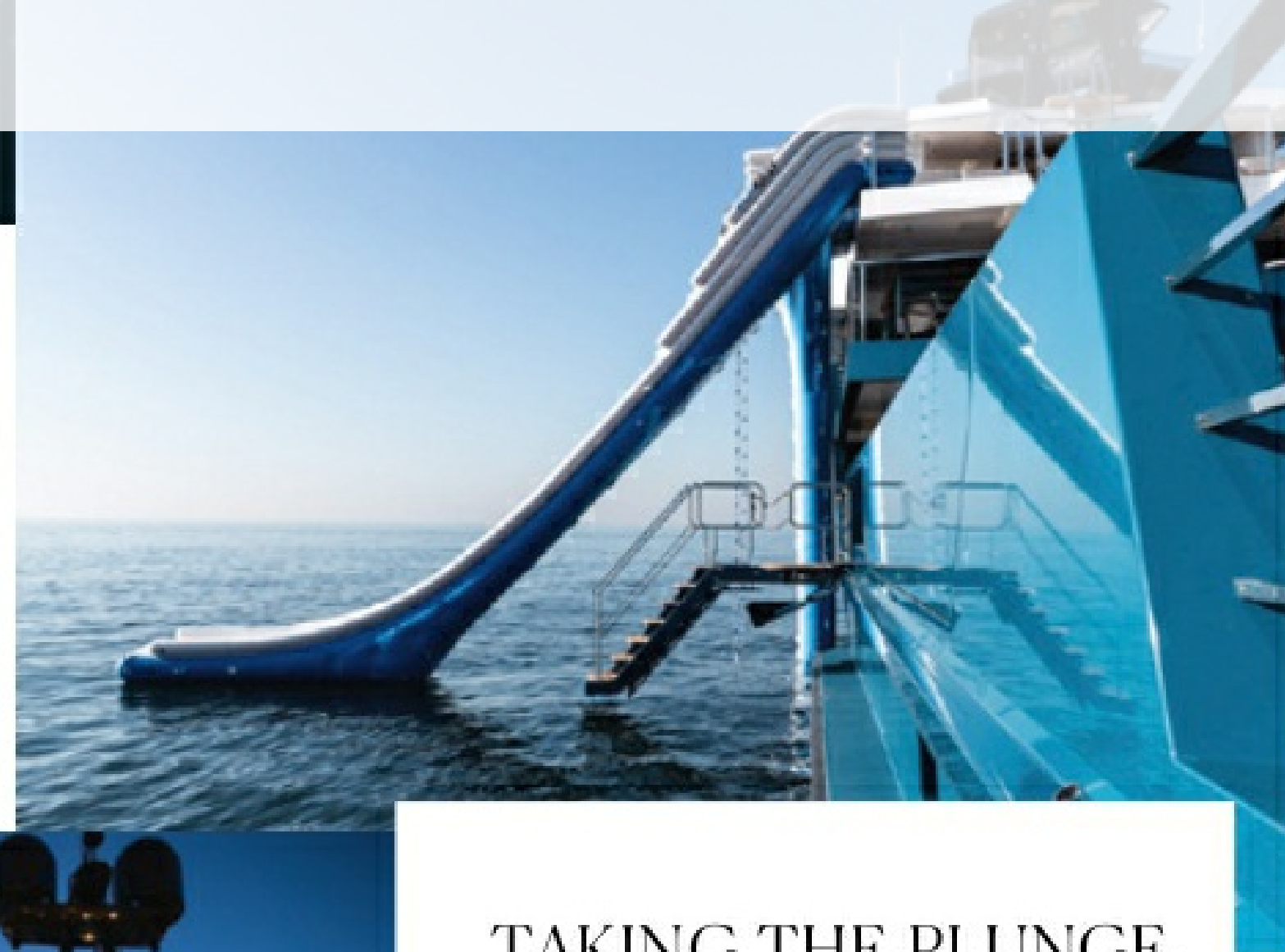
face of cabinets. Everything is there  
age nicely,” Tucker says.

Overall, Lopez, who spent weeks at the shipyard before the delivery, says he appreciated the collaborative spirit, with everyone pushing to get the yacht as close to perfect as possible.

The big debut for *King Benji* is the MYBA Charter Show in Genoa, Italy, in April and then she will head to Croatia. Discreet Dunya, meanwhile, has other in-build yachts, including a catamaran support vessel also by Gregory C Marshall and a 285-foot yacht with H2 Yacht Design. *King Benji* may be smaller than they are, but she will be a good ambassador for the shipyard as she joins the charter market with big plans. There are few guarantees in life, but one thing is for sure: *King Benji* won't be sitting idle. ■

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There won't be a dull moment on *King Benji*, thanks to a full toy box that includes inflatables, foils, scuba and snorkeling gear and an assortment of towables for the high-speed tenders



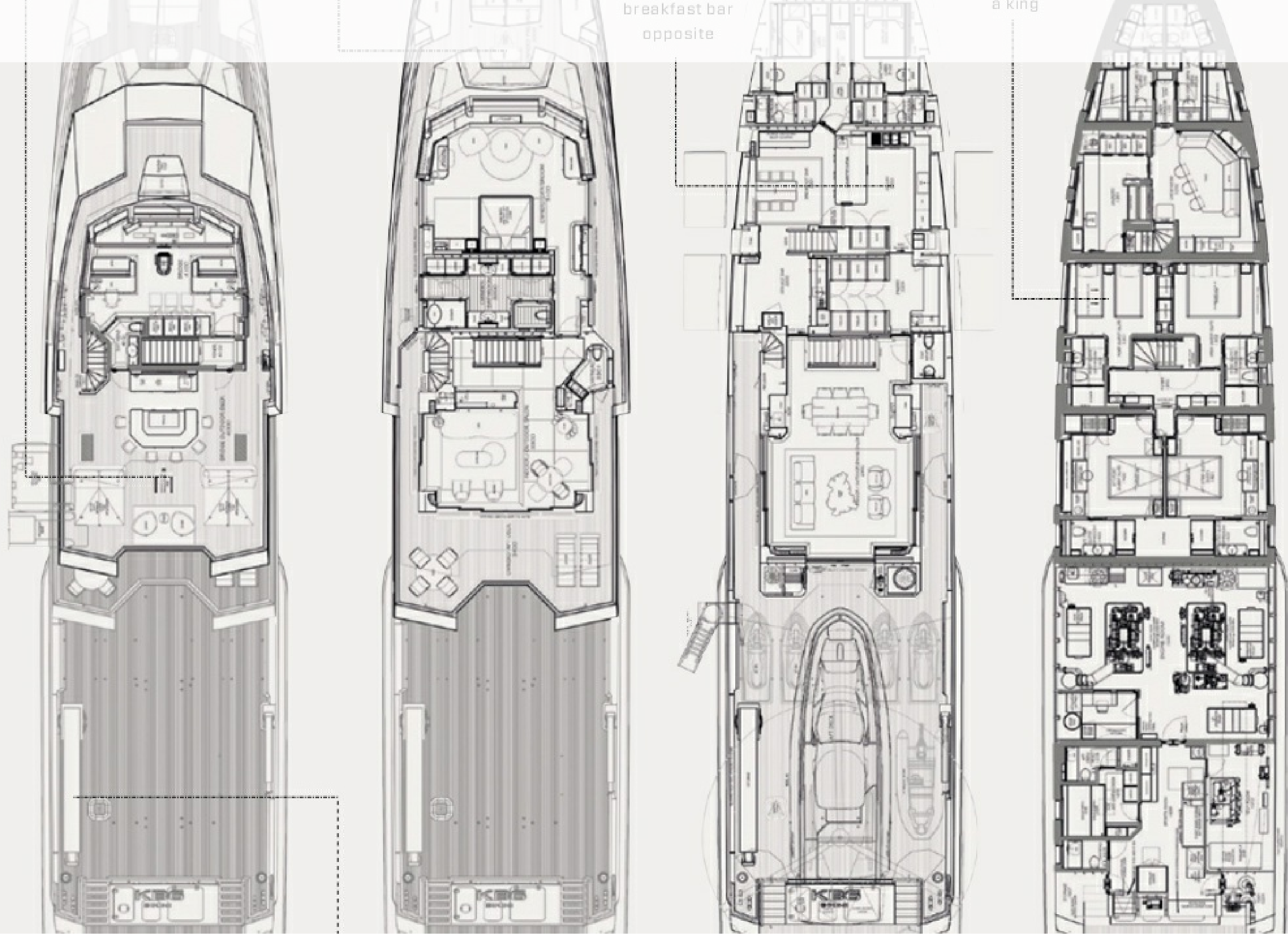
## TAKING THE PLUNGE

Fitness buffs will appreciate this important detail Golder incorporated – a plunge pool that could be enjoyed in the Norwegian fjords or in Croatia in summer (*pictured below left*). “I wanted a divider that you could put in between, so you could do half cold plunge, half warm,” he says. He also told the design team he did not want white fiberglass anywhere on the boat. “So they kind of went silent for a little bit and then they came back and they’re like, OK, we figured it out.” The resulting custom tub by Headhunter with a drop slide panel can do any temperature variation (hot/hot, cold/cold and hot/cold)





# KING BENJI

















KING BENJI

BRIDGE DECK FORWARD SEATING









