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# TIMELESS APPEAL

ROMEA PROVIDES AN OASIS OF CALM IN A BUSY WORLD.

BY JILL BOBROW

JEFF BROWN, COURTESY OF IMPERIAL YACHTS

ROMEA



WHAT DO THE WELL-KNOWN SUPERYACHTS *ECLIPSE*, *AL SALAMAH*, *PELORUS* AND *TATOOSH* HAVE

IN COMMON WITH 268-FOOT (81-METER) *ROME*A?

They all bear the mark of Terence Disdale Design. *RoMEA*, launched last year by Abeking & Rasmussen, may be smaller than those iconic yachts, but she shares the same Disdale DNA and does not suffer in the slightest for equivalent five-star amenities. She does more with less. She is a veritable oasis of calm in a riotous world.

Disdale is responsible for both *RoMEA*'s exterior styling and interior design. The yacht has classic balanced lines. In concert with Disdale's fundamental design philosophy, the goal with *RoMEA* was to create a timeless look, and he has succeeded. *RoMEA* appeals to a universal palate, albeit a palate that caters to good taste, elegance and class. When I visited the yacht in Monaco, I appreciated how subtle and graceful her interior design was. "Less is more," as the architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe advised.

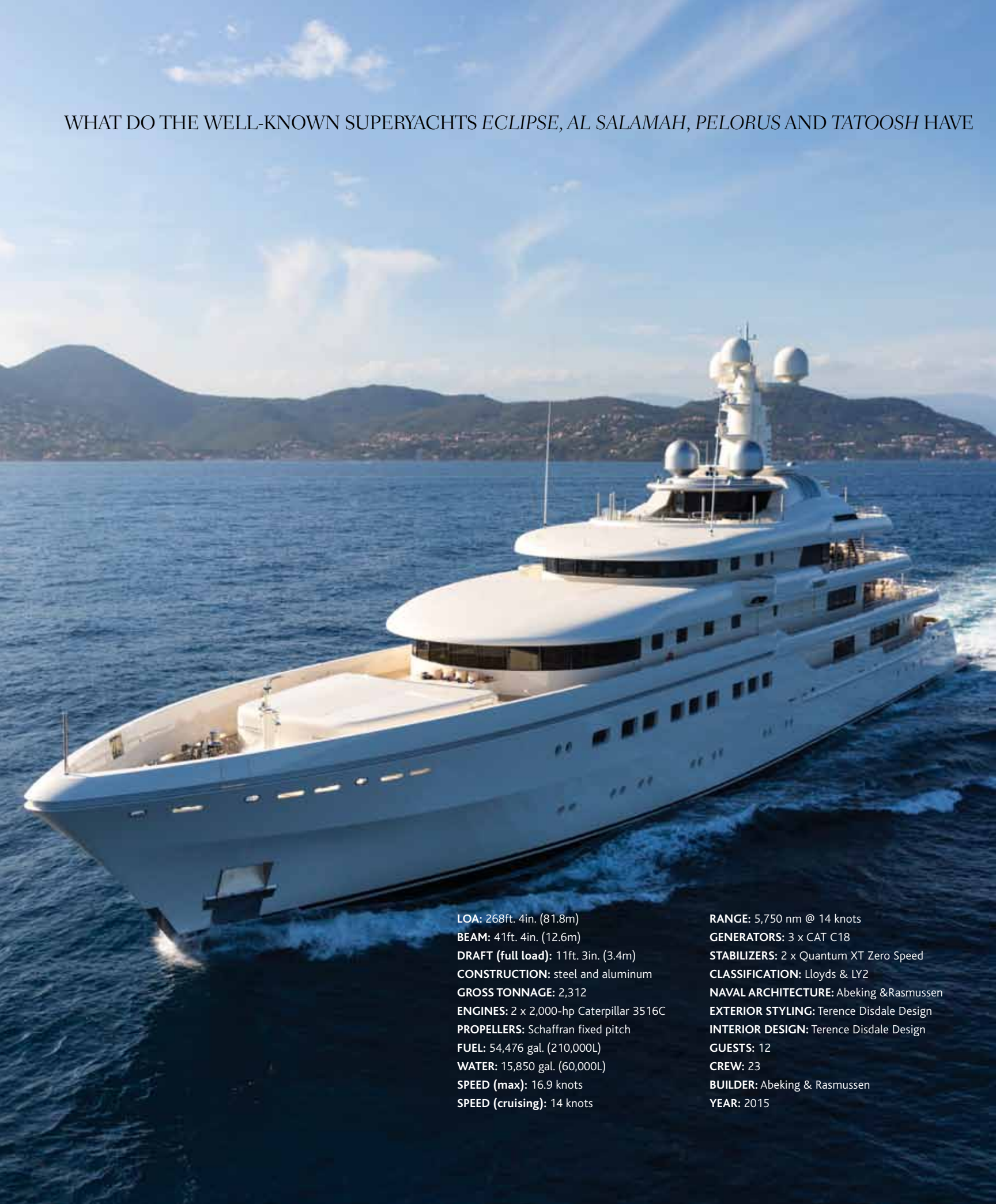
Disdale, by self-admission, tends not to defy convention so much as embrace it. "I did not try to create cool," he says. "Cool doesn't last. I have a common-sense approach to design. I am not one for out-there concepts. I don't believe in form over function. I shy away from the 'wow' look."

Indeed, Disdale's signature designs are known to stand the test of time. In the case of *RoMEA*, timeless does not translate to plain Jane. Instead, *RoMEA* exudes a slightly quieter luxury than many big-statement interior designs of late. While there may be a seeming nonchalance to Disdale's verbal design description, in reality

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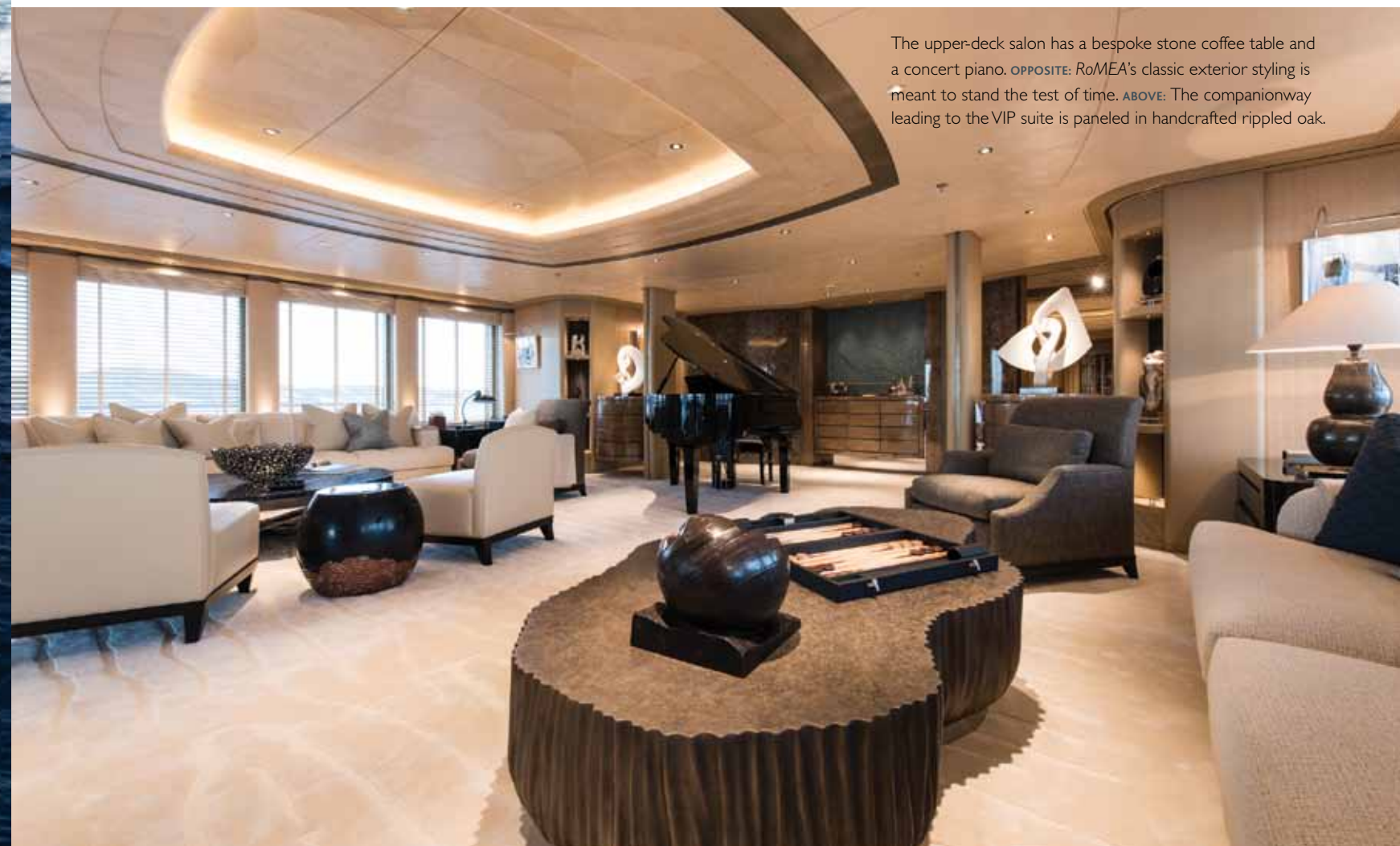


The upper-deck salon has a bespoke stone coffee table and a concert piano. OPPOSITE: *RoMEA*'s classic exterior styling is meant to stand the test of time. ABOVE: The companionway leading to the VIP suite is paneled in handcrafted rippled oak.



**LOA:** 268ft. 4in. (81.8m)  
**BEAM:** 41ft. 4in. (12.6m)  
**DRAFT (full load):** 11ft. 3in. (3.4m)  
**CONSTRUCTION:** steel and aluminum  
**GROSS TONNAGE:** 2,312  
**ENGINES:** 2 x 2,000-hp Caterpillar 3516C  
**PROPELLERS:** Schaffran fixed pitch  
**FUEL:** 54,476 gal. (210,000L)  
**WATER:** 15,850 gal. (60,000L)  
**SPEED (max):** 16.9 knots  
**SPEED (cruising):** 14 knots

**RANGE:** 5,750 nm @ 14 knots  
**GENERATORS:** 3 x CAT C18  
**STABILIZERS:** 2 x Quantum XT Zero Speed  
**CLASSIFICATION:** Lloyds & LY2  
**NAVAL ARCHITECTURE:** Abeking & Rasmussen  
**EXTERIOR STYLING:** Terence Disdale Design  
**INTERIOR DESIGN:** Terence Disdale Design  
**GUESTS:** 12  
**CREW:** 23  
**BUILDER:** Abeking & Rasmussen  
**YEAR:** 2015







Aboard *RoMEA* are two cinemas: the main salon theater pictured here, as well as an outdoor one. ABOVE: *RoMEA*'s walkaround side decks are perfect for an evening stroll.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The central elevator services all guest decks; With sliding glass partitions for wind protection, the upper-deck dining area has an easy transition into the sky lounge; The bridge-deck spa includes a beauty salon and massage room.



there is a richness of design intent. Disdale's special design moves are palpable once you are on board and experience the textures of the floors, the glint of the overhead, the rippling of the wood paneling and the opulence of the materials. Then you witness the superb workmanship from Abeking & Rasmussen and its subcontractors.

At 2,312 gross tons, *RoMEA* accommodates 12 guests in six staterooms; on the upper deck forward is a full-beam master suite with an office and an adjoining twin-bed children's stateroom. On the main deck are five guest staterooms including a full-beam VIP forward. *RoMEA* also has an upper observation deck and two salons. The main-deck salon has a cinema, and the salon on the bridge deck has a TV for outdoor viewing. A spa on the bridge deck includes a beauty treatment room, and the Jacuzzi on the sundeck provides a panoramic view of the yacht's surroundings. On the lower deck is a beach club with massage room, sauna and steam room.

The audiovisual system as well as the creation of entertaining areas were priorities aboard *RoMEA*. She is also available for charter, so an array of water toys is on board, requiring extra stowage.

"*RoMEA*'s engine room is show quality—very shiny," says André Jonker, the project manager at Abeking & Rasmussen. Beyond looks, the yacht's mechanical area is well organized. "*RoMEA* was fitted with enormous commercial refrigerators and freezers, and state-of-the-art watermakers and zero-speed stabilizers," he adds.

Jonker worked alongside the owner's representatives from Imperial Yachts to ensure that every detail was just right. The owner's decisions were informed by having chartered many yachts. "The yacht is extremely bespoke, incredibly light, and very calm and relaxing," Jonker says.

The time that went into creating the bronze ceiling panels and inserts, and the rippled oak passageway treatments, is impossible to imagine, but it took nearly 2,000 hours, Jonker says. A machine did the routing work in the swirled wood panels, but all the individual grooves were sanded by hand—hours and hours of meticulous

human craft. Much of the furniture aboard was custom designed at Rodiek in Lemwerder, Germany, and the finishes on the dining table and ceiling panels juxtapose with other materials used throughout the yacht, such as marble, oak, Lalique and leather. The overall interior tonality is awash in neutral blonde and earth tones, with dashes of primary colors only in the hanging artwork.

While the general colors are one tone, the myriad textures are 3-D and diverse. The bathroom soles and the sole of the spa comprise smooth pebbles that, underfoot, feel as if they have been sea-softened by centuries of wave action. Stones also figure into some of the applied art and sculptures.

Disdale ensured unity and consistency with the design concept throughout. Imperial's CEO, Evgeniy Kochman, says that when he introduced the owner and his family to their new yacht upon delivery, "The owner felt immediately at home. He loves it and felt as if he had the boat for ages."

*RoMEA* is indeed a yacht that will not go out of fashion. Disdale knows a thing or two about design after 40-plus years. He has ensured not only that *RoMEA* fulfills her owner's dreams, but also that charter guests will feel the same sense of home on board, if only for a week. That is what timelessness offers. *RoMEA* combines comfort and serenity with style—creating an appeal that will not be easily dated. **Y**

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