

Excellence

by Paola Bertelli - ph. Guillaume Plisson (exterior) and Winch Media (interior)

Radical, futuristic lines, enormous expanses of seamless glazing, new spaces to discover, impressive finishes and detailing: the 80m from Abeking and Rasmussen and Winch Design is an astonishingly out-of-the-ordinary yacht



The atrium on Excellence's main deck is quite an imposing sight with an enormous glass wall facing outward and turning the space into a heavenly light and reflection-filled delight. Triple height and overlooked by the owner and upper decks, it is hard to believe that such spectacular foyer has ever been seen on a yacht before. It is truly spectacular. The use of glass is an extraordinary masterpiece of both design and engineering just for a start: that wall is made up of six five-metre high, 60-80 mm thick panels weighing 1.3 tonnes and supported by industrial-chic perforated steel beams. Amazingly, the panels also follow the slightly curvature (approximately 6°) of the superstructure.

As you stand before the 80m five-decker built by Abeking & Rasmussen of Germany to Winch Design's interior and exterior specifications, you will, however, be stunned by more than just her atrium. Winch's exterior lines are radical stuff with a sharp, aggressive "American Eagle" reverse bow and series of flying saucer-shaped pods fore and aft of each deck. Vast mirrored glass surfaces seem to go on forever while steel spiral staircases effortlessly hug the rounded forms of the pods. A chiselled silhouette for a yacht with powerful personality all of its own. A yacht that is genuinely new and, just as her owner asked, aiming to become "the winner of all winners and something which would divide opinion".

In the interior, Winch Design has designed every inch of the layout right down to the tiniest detail. Endless materials appear and disappear as you explore: a dazzling mix of glasses, mirrors, marbles (over 30 different types with a particular emphasis on glorious golden onyx), timbers (23 different types of wood), fabrics, leathers and metals. There are also plenty of references aboard to Floridian East Coast Deco and the car world as the owner made his fortune in car dealerships. In the main saloon, the big deep sofas have metal side supports that reference 1960s car grilles and

the black-and-white concentric circles on the saloon ceiling hark back to classic car tyres. In the guest cabins, the ventilation harking are crafted to resemble bonnet grilles and a whole host of design elements inspired by iconic Bugatti, Ferrari Daytona abound in the bathrooms. The floors are sumptuous too – we were particularly taken with the craftsmanship of the marble inlay and carpeting. All of the finishes are utterly sublime. The walls in the study area, for instance, feature silver leather pressed with tobacco leaves with a mix of birdseye maple wood, cappuccino marble and tan leather tiles for the flooring.

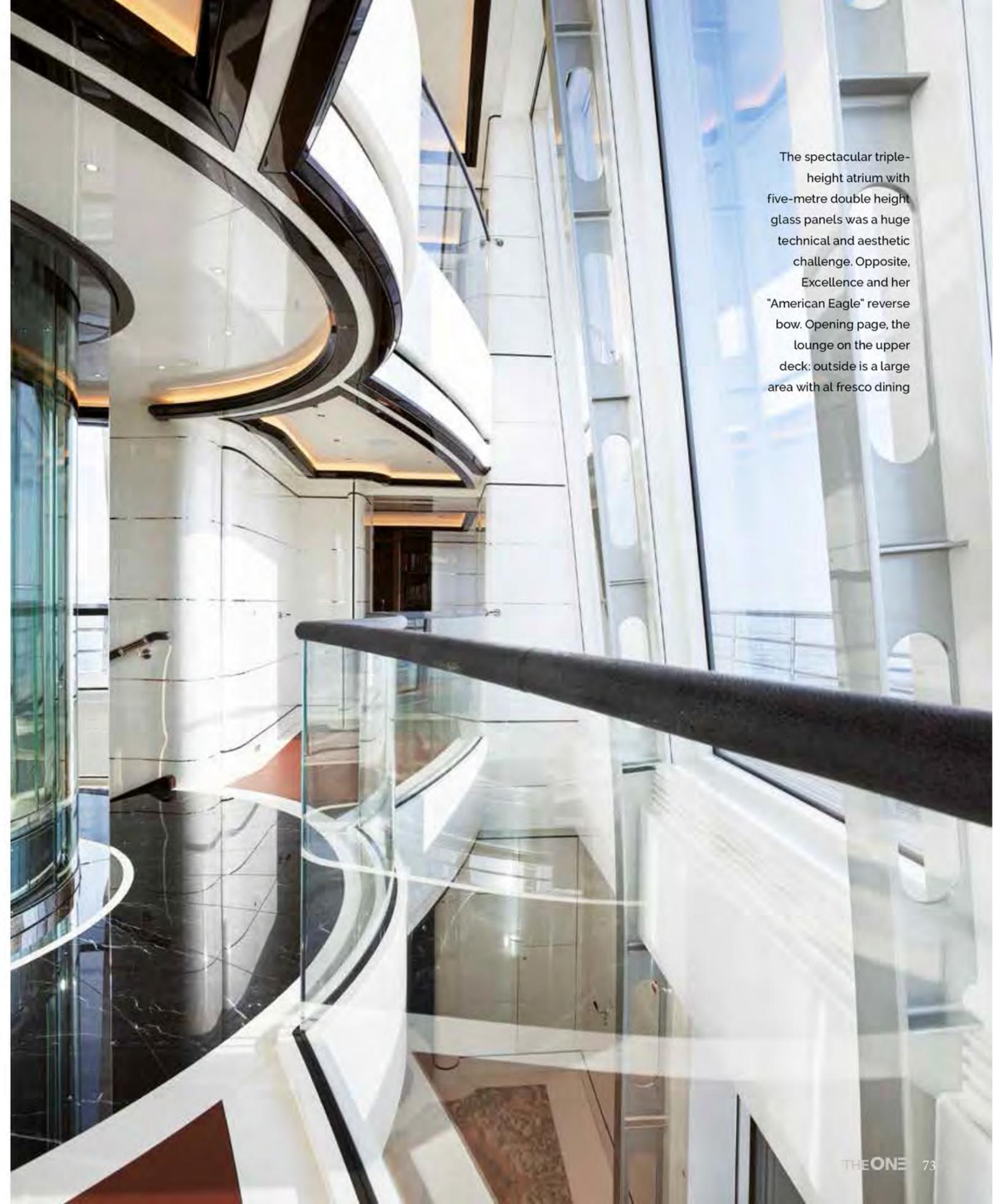
There are two welcoming areas aboard: one on the main deck and the other on the beach club. Six guest staterooms (of approximately 25 sqm each) are located on the main deck in addition to the saloon and the dining area. All are similar in overall style but have many unique textural and colour details that make them unique too. Further forward on the main deck is a completely soundproofed nine-seater home cinema and also a gym with spa overlooking the sea.

The master suite, which extends over a huge 130 sqm, is on a dedicated deck. It has huge sea-facing windows and, like the rest of the interiors, the colour palette is a mix of coffees and creams. The finishes take exclusivity to a new level, however: the panelling is Macassar ebony while silver filaments has been woven to look like a metallic carbon-fibre, and the wool carpeting with crocodile skin motif is a custom-design by Oliver Treutlein.

Excellence's exterior is dominated by the colour white flanked by steel detailing and teak finishes. There are two Jacuzzis on the sun and bridge deck, while the main has a pool with a glass bottom that allows soft, gentle light to filter down to the beach club beneath. Also on the main, the aft bar has been sunken into the deck to avoid ruining guests' view of the sea.

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The spectacular triple-height atrium with five-metre double height glass panels was a huge technical and aesthetic challenge. Opposite, Excellence and her "American Eagle" reverse bow. Opening page, the lounge on the upper deck; outside is a large area with al fresco dining





Top, the master suite with stunning floor-to-ceiling windows in front of the bed and, right, the sauna on the main deck. Opposite, top, an artwork inspired by cartoon character and, below, the dining area. The table top is trimmed in anegre, shagreen and Carrara marble





The guest sleeping quarters are on the main deck. There are six staterooms in all, each one personalised with different colour schemes and materials. The floors are beautifully crafted with marble inlay and sumptuous carpeting. The home cinema and gym/spa are further forward

Exterior Design

James Russell, Associate
at Winch Design



Excellence's bow cleaves the waves like a razor. She has a range of 4,500 nm at 13 knots and a steel hull topped by an aluminium superstructure. Opposite, references to the car world abound in the lounge on the bridge deck from leather armchairs to the sofas with side grilles even a classic car tyre-inspired circular motif on the ceiling

Excellence's experienced owner has had five yachts with which to perfect his ideal dream yacht. After falling in love with the preliminary model, he trusted Winch Design to help him step out of his comfort zone to develop something groundbreaking and industry-defining.

Excellence is a striking combination of boundary-pushing technical design and daring innovation: she is a rocket ship ready for take-off.

The main design brief was to be iconic: a sporty, modern and comfortable yacht which would become a classic. She has an unmistakable silhouette which will remain head-turning for years to come.

The radical exterior design created by Winch Design, with the clean minimalistic lines, inclined superstructure and the open and spacious interior with the expansive reflective glass panels, are key elements to this original design. These elements initially created challenges for Abeking & Rasmussen but ultimately led to several innovations which had never been used onboard before. Her unusual and challenging interior lines mean that each door onboard Excellence is a custom design with a completely new opening and closing mechanism. Excellence is unique, iconic, futuristic and extraordinary.

Interior Design - Ignacio Oliva-Velez

Senior Partner, Yachts and Project Manager

Excellence was a very exciting project to be involved and tested the team to their creative limits. The owner wanted a completely new introduction to the superyacht market. He is an experienced yacht owner and knew that he wanted to create something completely unprecedented. Winch Design is very comfortable thinking outside of the box and never wants to design something that has been done before.

Excellence's interior takes cues from Floridian East Coast Deco as well as from the details found in his impressive automotive collection.

Excellence wasn't designed for charter but is the ideal yacht for charter. The main deck is perfectly designed for charter, with each of the six guest cabins right in the middle of everything they could ever need, giving the owner complete privacy on the bridge deck should he wish. Also situated here is a subtly designed hospitality cabinet allowing guests to help themselves to drinks and amenities without needing to bother the crew. There is extensive use of glass throughout Excellence's interiors and each guest cabin features a huge window, allowing maximum natural light into her rooms and ensures that guests feel close to the water and the surrounding nature. The extensive

use of natural light means that her soft interiors remain fresh and bright, and that the colours and textures chosen by the client are showcased to their very best. Her interiors are cocooned by the view surrounding her, and her interior colour scheme was kept calm and neutral in order to better highlight the incredible views. There are so many rare and exciting finishes onboard. A few examples include Nero Marquina, grey onyx, Paonazzo, Calcatta and Magic Brown marble. The dining table is trimmed in anegre, shagreen and Carrara marble. There is also Macassar ebony in the lounge and each cabin features a signature timber behind each bed, including amboyna burl, straight grain walnut and avodire curl. The core wood used throughout is white rippled sycamore, and additionally wenge is used in most rooms; all the timber is high gloss. Limestone and golden onyx are also favoured throughout. The carpet on the corridor of the main deck mimics the grain of the bleached white sycamore in a yet another level of textural detail. Excellence's finish is highly textured and patterned. The owner loves layered patterns and the closer you look the more you will find carefully layered and matched textures, patterns and materials in every single space. Every surface onboard has been optimised.

Till von Krause, Sales Director Yacht Abeking & Rasmussen



During the 2015 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, A&R presented a design study developed with Winch Design, not knowing that this would become the successor to the last Excellence V! Excellence's owner and his friends visited us at our booth. They were all taken with the sleek design and vast amount of glass. In summer 2016 our client's directions were clear: "I want an iconic yacht, with lots of glass, 80m, open spaces, good for communication. A boat where people feel happy and comfortable". The first sketches and plans were developed and the build contract for his 4th Abeking & Rasmussen Yacht was quietly signed during the 2016 Monaco Boat Show. Excellence is an icon for sure. With the exterior design, Winch Design sketched up an artistic vessel. Prior to construction, our naval architects optimised the hull and went through extensive tank testing in calm water and waves. These time-consuming but very successful test results have already been proven in the real world.

Excellence's styling is second to none with extended engineering in the background and unbelievable views from inside out. The yacht stands out with her glass superstructure which is not just a matter of careful engineering, but required great team work between all the trades and at all levels, from start to finish. The sheer variety of her special features and design elements makes Excellence a yacht well outside the norm. Abeking & Rasmussen successfully delivered on all the challenges and actually turned them into proper engineering solutions, fulfilling all technical requirements and requested conditions. We took the lines created by Winch Design and turned the owner's ideas into reality, proving that there are no limits.

Andrew Winch and his team definitely proved their utter professionalism by synchronising the owner's very individual requirements for a bright and happy albeit traditional interior with a cutting-edge exterior design. The highly experienced Robert Bennett acted as the owner's representative together with well trusted and long term Excellence captain Ray Shore who has already safely steered the yacht right across the Atlantic.

Last but not least, the in house engineering team and craftsmen here at Abeking & Rasmussen did a fantastic job, successfully merging all the various disciplines involved into a single piece of state of the art craftsmanship. The owner's first reaction when seeing the finished yacht was: "You exceeded my expectations!" Reflecting back on the short 34 months, from contract signing to delivery, Abeking & Rasmussen and the entire team are very proud to have built this masterpiece.

Excellence took four years to complete from preliminary sketches to delivery. Her owner is a repeat client and she is his fourth yacht to be built by Abeking & Rasmussen.

The sculptural forms of her hull were subjected to extensive tank testing in calm water and waves before the build