

PERFECT PLAN

It took a bit of juggling and a lot of secrecy, but Atomic shaped up to be a great surprise.

Words - Stewart Campbell Photography - A&B Design



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The Sunrise team have built me a masterpiece. Atomic will be an awesome floating home, a base for great adventure.

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If the owner of *Atomic* ever tires of running his successful dive equipment company, there's a job waiting for him at the CIA. In a staggering feat of subterfuge, he managed to keep the build of the 148-foot Sunrise yacht concealed from his family, communicating with the Turkish yard in covert phone calls from his car and hush-hush emails. His cover was finally blown during a family holiday in Antalya last summer, site of the big reveal. While they dined at a beachside restaurant, the boat cruised into view, lights blazing. "What do you think of that yacht?" he asked his wife. "Well, it's yours."

He had kept the secret for a year, after signing terms with Sunrise Yachts in July 2013. The yacht — his first — was started on spec back in 2010 as a sister ship to Sunrise's *Africa*, launched in 2009. The owner became aware of the project and fired off a speculative one-line email to Sunrise's vice president of sales and marketing, Jean-Claude Carme, who responded with the relevant

information, not really believing anything would come of it. "I'm glad I answered that email," he says.

Atomic was half finished when the owner bought it, giving Sunrise a challenging 12-month deadline. "A lot was done: the hull, superstructure, fairing, insulation, engines and some of the systems," says Carme, "but it was still a tight schedule. We had to deliver the yacht in summer 2014 to accommodate the owner's wishes to cruise the eastern Mediterranean before bringing the yacht to the U.S. for the Fort Lauderdale [boat] show."

The owner got involved just in time to tweak it. An avid scuba diver, he decided to turn the garage into a dive center, since he tows his tender. "The sun deck and foredeck were redesigned as well. Meanwhile, red lines were painted on the yacht to match the décor of his jet, and a clay pigeon shooting machine was mounted on the sun deck arch," Carme says.

Atomic shares the same technical platform and exterior as *Africa*. And both boats carry the legacy of Sunrise CEO



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Turkish carpenters crafted the oak interior, where light color emphasizes the sense of space (opposite top). As a backdrop for the formal dining room, Franck Darnet designed the three-panel metallic mural made in France by Metalcomposite (opposite bottom); the top deck bar offers a more casual setting for snacks (above).



Guillaume Roché's years as a yacht captain, namely in a superb technical tunnel running the length of the tank deck and connecting fore and aft engineering spaces. This level of crew access is very unusual on a 148-foot yacht, and its benefits are immediately clear in crew miles saved, ease of communication and troubleshooting.

It was also important for *Atomic's* captain, Marvin Wilson, that everything on board live up to the KISS philosophy: keep it simple, stupid. Everywhere you look, hanging off pipes, trunking, engines and all manner of knobs are laminated sheets detailing the equipment's purpose and the location of spare parts.

Wilson was stationed in Turkey for a year to oversee the build, since to maintain secrecy the American owner couldn't reasonably keep coming up with excuses to visit the country.

The pressure to complete the fit-out in just a year is not apparent anywhere on board. The Franck Darnet-designed interior is very easy on the eye and superbly finished, with headroom particularly impressive throughout. The design was partly put together before the owner purchased the boat, but that doesn't make it any less appealing. Big points for the French designer, therefore, who "focused on refining the subtle balance between space and materials, in order to provide a warm and comfortable feeling on board."

"The owner expressed to us his passion for the sea and particularly for the submarine world. He wanted a certain type of atmosphere on board: clear, cozy, modern without being cold, elegant with beautiful materials. Those are the key words which we used as a basis for our composition," says Darnet.

The upper salon, anchored by a long bar, really nails the cozy brief. Light floods in through big windows, and the whole space opens up via large doors onto the upper aft deck.



*As scuba divers rise to the surface,
they come into more light.
Duplicating this experience,
Franck Darnet made the upper
deck's décor lighter in color and feel.*



Despite Atomic sliding under the 500-gross-ton mark, all spaces on board feel big.



Despite *Atomic* sliding under the 500-gross-ton mark, all spaces on board feel big, which Darnet puts down to his background as a sailing yacht designer: “The optimization of space is one of our key points. I believe it comes from our background in the world of sailboats, where every centimeter matters. We apply the same recipe to a motor yacht, and it’s one of the reasons why (as well as the remarkable height between decks) that we have the space worthy of a fifty-meter on *Atomic*.”

The design highlight is undoubtedly the wonderfully tactile, sand-ripple staircase wall, which curls with you down to the guest rooms on the lower deck, comprising three doubles and a twin. Darnet worked with a Turkish sculptor to bring it to life. “The idea was to reproduce the impression that you have in an underwater dive. When you go down a level on the boat, you’re ‘diving under the sea’ in

a universe surrounded with sand, and when you rise back up to the main deck, the intensity of the light is stronger. It’s exactly the same when you’re diving,” Darnet says.

The yacht’s layout largely conforms. The expansive main deck is split between a living room and formal dining, ahead of which is access to the other decks. The main galley is found here, too, a space clearly set up for use by guests and owner with plenty of marble and a big window. The owner’s area forward starts with a nook-cum-study ahead of the full-beam bedroom and bathroom, the design of which reflects the main living areas’ comfortable tones.

The upper salon, anchored by a long bar, really nails the cozy brief. Light floods in through big windows, and the whole space opens up via large doors onto the upper aft deck, where the formal outside dining takes place. Up a level, an expansive hardtop protects the sun deck bar and



The master bed and side tables feature stainless steel-framed mother-of-pearl detailing, which is found throughout the yacht, a nod to the owner’s love for diving.

its classy wood surround, while forward is a spa pool. A few clues up here give an insight into the owner’s loves; a big TV sits behind the bar for watching sports, and on the rear of the hard top that shooting trap sits ready to fling clay pigeons out over the ocean. Below, with the 34-foot Intrepid on a long tow and Jet Skis on the foredeck, the tender garage space is the diving hub.

The owner is due to see some pretty spectacular underwater sites, too, as his vision for *Atomic* is to go around the world. So her tried-and-tested hull and engineering were real bonuses.

“The hull was designed to be particularly effective in all sea conditions,” Carme says, “and most importantly to provide for great fuel efficiency and range with a reasonably sized engine package.” The bright red-painted lumps in the engine room are twin 1,070-hp MTUs,

offering an easy 12-knot cruise and range of 4,000 nautical miles. Her captains confirms that *Atomic* is frugal, sipping just 40 gallons per hour at cruising speed, and doesn’t ship much water thanks to a pronounced knuckle in its forward sections. A supremely comfortable yacht inside and at sea reinforces Sunrise’s growing reputation as a builder of real pedigree.

Atomic’s owner has been lavish in his praise. He visited the yacht just once during construction, when he signed the contract. So Carme and his colleagues would understandably have been nervous that balmy summer night in Antalya as the owner and his family stepped onto the completed boat for the first time. But any fears quickly evaporated. “The Sunrise team have built me a masterpiece,” the owner declared. “*Atomic* will be an awesome floating home, a base for great adventure.” ☐

Atomic – Sunrise Yachts

Sun deck

Upper deck

Main deck

Lower deck

Store it: Jet Skis, housed in a foredeck garage, are out of sight.

Prepared: The crew has ready access to the skylounge bar, which exemplifies good planning for ease of service.

Dinner party: The upper aft deck table expands to seat 14.

Galley: A well-appointed space, it boasts top-notch equipment.

Peace and quiet: The generators are enclosed to minimize noise.

Dive in: Built for an active family, Atomic includes an impressive dive center.

* Tank deck omitted

LOA: 147' 5"
(44.9m)
LWL: 126' 2"
(38.5m)
Beam:
29' 3" (8.9m)
Draft:
9' 6" (2.9m)

**Displacement
(full load):**
420 tonnes
Power: 2 x MTU 12V
2000 M70
Speed (max/cruise):
16/12 knots
Range:
4,000 nm

Generators:
2 x 80kW Kohler
80-EFOZD
Fuel capacity:
14,800 U.S. gallons
Stabilizers: CMC Marine
Freshwater capacity:
3,300 U.S. gallons

**Owners and guests/
crew:** 12/10
Tender: Intrepid 327
Construction:
Steel/aluminum
Classification:
Lloyd's Register of
Shipping; MCA LY2
Compliant

Naval architecture:
Sunrise Yachts/Karatas
Yacht Design
Exterior styling:
Studio Scanu
Interior design:
Franck Darnet Design

Builder/Year:
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