




"I CLOSE MY EYES AND  
IMAGINE THE SPACE I'D  
LIKE TO BE WRAPPED  
IN: **THAT WILL BE  
THE FIRST DRAFT  
OF MY DESIGN"**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luca Vallebona', written in a cursive style.

by Samuela Urbini



What strikes people most when they see Luca Vallebona's designs is their sheer originality. The 44-year-old architect, who designed Serenity for Mondomarine, developed professionally in the Nauta-studio in Milan, where for eight years he was able to work on all kinds of craft, be they series, custom, sail or motor. He loves creating yachts with an unprecedented appearance. "I'm an architect and I'm aware, above all, of interior spaces and how these impact on the volumes and therefore the lines of a yacht. I work a great deal with my imagination – when I close my eyes I see the spaces, and what it's like to walk into them".

The originality produced by this creative process is strikingly clear in his Pentagramma concept, whose qualities become more striking as you approach.

"From a distance what you see is a light craft with a dark, very elementary shape above. 80-metre yachts usually have many decks and the result is a little heavy on the eye. I wanted to make a long yet low yacht where the decks couldn't be

distinguished from outside". As you draw nearer, what from far away seemed just dark shape actually reveals a wealth of detail. "I imagined finding myself in front of a music staff, which in Italian is a pentagramma, hence the name of the project. The boat's framework is rigid, but I worked on this with glass panels in modular dimensions, whose composition can be varied by changing their length and the positioning of the backlit brass inserts. As if they were the notes on a musical staff – there are only seven of them, but they can be used to create an infinite number of melodies".

Vallebona summarises the essence of his work in these words: "I'm much more of an architect than a designer, because usually a designer doesn't have a compositive approach, but in some way I feel I am a composer". Original. In several ways, in fact, Vallebona has included elements that fall outside a regular composition – "Outside, aft, the beach is laid out asymmetrically. In a yacht that seems extremely rigid there are elements that offset this impression. Inside, I like to create



Low on the water, sleek lines, well-defined superstructure featuring lots of glass, hull in steel and aluminium. Pentagramma, Luca Vallebona's 80-metre concept yacht redesigns spaces and geometries. The asymmetric beach area (top) is unique, as is the semi-open midships lounge area (right) sheltered by louvres, retractable screens and opening side windows!





The beach area blends into the main deck through a series of stairs that create movement and different levels of functionality. A staircase hidden by a hinged section of the deck connects it directly to the guest cabins aft of the engine room. Pentagramma offers total contact with the sea

spaces that are normally obscured or regarded as elements to conceal. The corridor leading to the owner's cabin has a curved side, free and soft, which becomes an art gallery, so it's not just a walkway, it's an expressive part of the yacht. A hidden door also leads from the corridor to a secret bar, a smaller space where the typical square shape is transcended, linked to the owner's balcony. It can be used for enjoying a breakfast with view of the sea".

On the upper deck we pass several times from interior to exterior, and here, too, the linearity of the deck is subverted by a play of highs and lows. At mid-deck there is a spectacular interior courtyard, the hidden heart of the yacht, a semi-open space with a lowered area hosting the sofas. From here it's possible to go forward to the bows and use the gym/sauna, or aft to move out into the open air on a deck laid out over several levels. The courtyard is linked to the helipad by a staircase concealed by a blue screen, so guests can access it directly.

At the moment the architect is working on two new concepts, a 60-metre and a 62-metre explorer, where he revisits the concept of a hull with a shape above, but very different this time because the yacht is larger and plays with the geometrical element of a circle, presented in different sizes and inclinations.