

destry darr pethtel

During the last 25 years, yacht interiors have gone through phases, from Biedermeier to Edwardian to Minimalism. What design theme or themes do you think will be the next trends and why?

The excesses of the '80s and '90s have surrendered to a cleaner, fresher, more tailored appeal. What was once desirable during a period of opulence and display of wealth is now more sedate and understated. I feel the trend towards a cleaner and more contemporary interior is going to be here for a while. Our clients shape the outcomes much more than design trends. We have honored historical design styles for so long that I believe owners are comfortable creating their own look. If there is a design trend today, it's that there isn't one.

Which do you prefer: muted monochromatic color palettes or polychromatic schemes with variety between decks, and why?

I only express my personal preference when asked. Generally, the larger the yacht, the easier it is to incorporate more varied color palettes. I do sometimes encourage those clients who want to be "safe," use the boat for charter, or are concerned about resale to use neutral colors on the very large items, such as sofas and carpet, and the bright or dark colors on the smaller items that can be changed without as much expense.

Destry Darr Designs

Following the previous question, what do you think the next color trends will be?

I make a habit of watching the fashion industry. New colors are introduced every year. Those that are successful turn up in the home and yacht décor industry. Some colors never die; others make cameo appearances every ten years. I am seeing interesting colors and color combinations and unusual accents, as well as classic colors with flashes of bright, vivacious hues. The calming colors of a sunset – warm orange, soft yellow, majestic pinks, and plum – are popular now. I see a lot of organic, natural colors like leaf greens and earthy neutrals, which never go out of style.

Do you find that your clients are receptive to suggestions for eco-friendly or sustainable resource products? If so, what products are you recommending or sourcing?

We have many clients requesting to replace high heat, high-wattage halogen lighting with LED lighting and also to use Energy Star appliances to reduce electrical loads. Some choices – such as using wool in place of synthetic carpet or fabrics, or using water-based finishes instead of petroleum-based finishes – are an easy option and do not add much expense.



What technical advances in the last 25 years of yacht building have made the most significant impact or change to interior design?

Computerized interior design is a major technological advancement for yacht interiors. By incorporating the latest technology, my clients can see what they will get. Today, thanks to the advances in technology, changing floor plans or elevations, and creating computerized 3-D color renderings is faster than ever before and more sophisticated. Now we can use the Internet and advanced data and communication technologies throughout the phases of the project to visualize our ideas and communicate them clearly to our clients.

Have you noticed an increase in desire for outdoor living space? What are some of the latest and most useful ways you have utilized outdoor living for your clients?

Many more owners are favoring the great outdoors. Owners have been requesting shaded al fresco dining areas, fully-equipped bars with stools, sunbathing areas with large sunpads, and reclining sunpads, comfortable seating and lounges, panoramic spa pools, shaded gyms, and the most advanced sound and entertainment systems currently available.

Many designs never make it off the drawing boards. Name one design you have created, that for one reason or another never made it to fruition – but should have.

We redesigned the exterior decks of a 164-foot expedition vessel that had been previously converted to a yacht. After completing the designs, the owners opted not to go through with the extensive exterior refit.