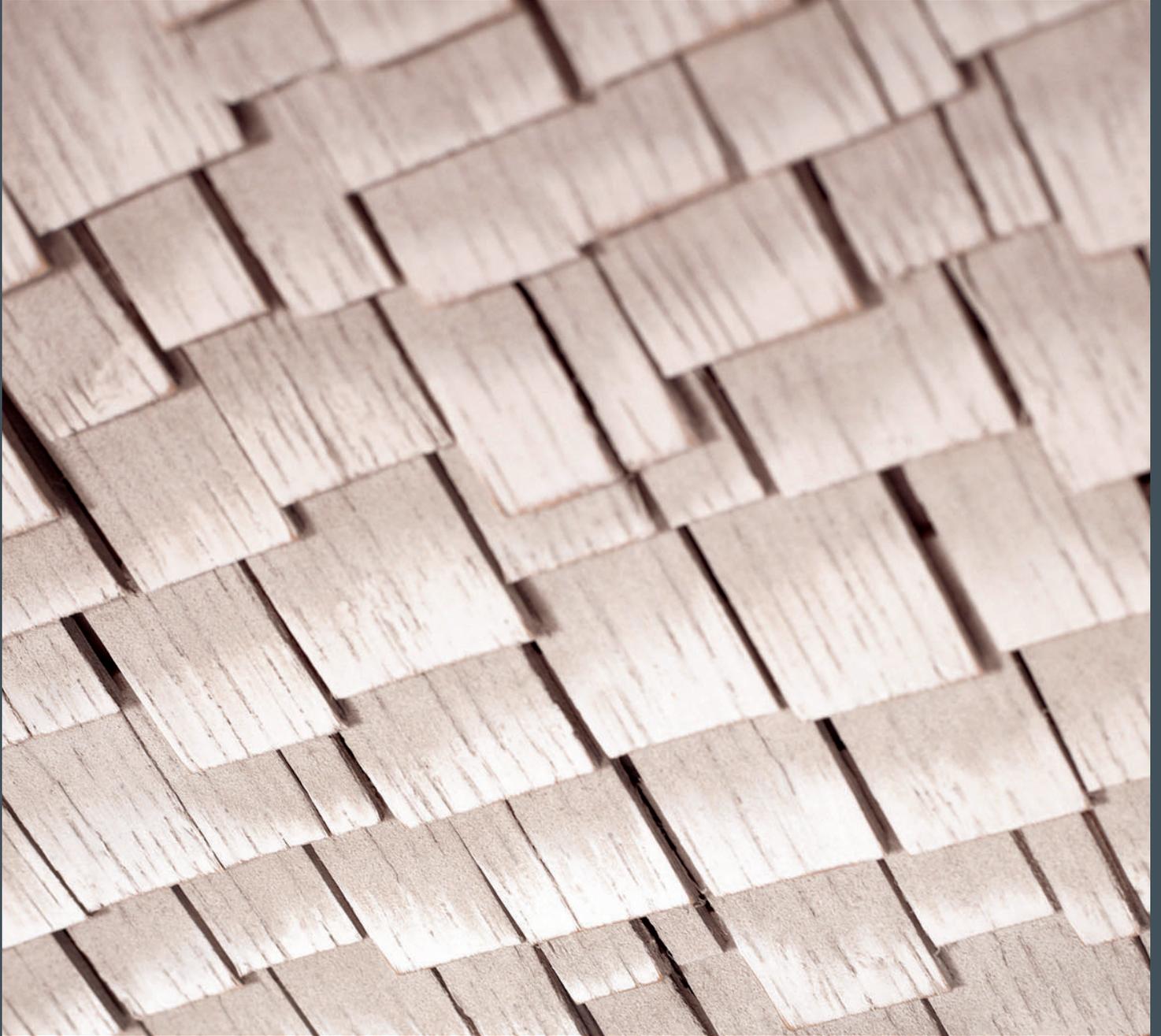


Superyacht

INTERIOR DESIGN

EXTERIOR SPACE

CREATIVITY AND ARCHITECTURE



DESIGN

CASE STUDY

We pay a visit to Officina Italiana Design in landlocked Bergamo, Italy.

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ARTISAN

Fiona Barratt-Campbell reveals the importance of Northumberland to her work.

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Interior outfitter Struik & Hamerslag celebrates its 50th anniversary.

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**FOCAL
POINT**

MELOT
+ TRILLO

CRYSTAL CLEAR

With exterior styling by Andrea Vallicelli, the Granturismo range from ISA in Ancona, Italy, responds to the market demand for medium-sized displacement motoryachts with contemporary styling and good balance between exterior and interior volumes. The first in the series, 43m *PhilMi*, was launched last spring and features an interior design by Melot + Trillo, who collaborated with Martin Francis and Swarovski to develop bespoke crystal solutions.



RUDOLF SCHWERMA

French interior designer Sandrine Melot has been creating commercial and residential interiors for 20 years. In 2011, she set up her own multi-disciplinary creative practice with Italian architect Anna Trillo, who began her yacht design career with GCA Architectes in Barcelona, where she assisted on the interior of the Dubois-designed, 53.5m sailing yacht *Nirvana* built by Vitters. After *Blue Princess Star*, 34m *Baglietto*, *PhilMi* is the second yacht interior Melot has undertaken for the same owners. In response to their newly married status, the yacht's name is an amalgam of the couple's first names.

"The owners' brief was for an interior that was more oriented towards specific colours, shapes and materials, such as the distinctive mosaic tiles in the bathrooms," says Melot. "They also wanted to create a display space for a special bronze statue by Stéphane Pencreac'h in the main salon and were very focused on the transparency of the bar of the flybridge, so together with my partner Anna we developed several glass solutions. The

final version selected was an ice-like glass column which reveals its full splendour in the evening thanks to uplighting integrated into the pedestal structure."

The designer duo proposed two alternatives for the main salon, one with a masculine ambience and the other more feminine. The final result is a mix of the two and includes an LED light path in the floor and a linear skylight in the ceiling orientated towards the bronze sculpture.

"The owners became very involved and the project was developed in close collaboration," continues Melot. "Martin Francis, whose office is not far from mine, was retained by Swarovski to develop a new range of high-end surfaces. These new crystal products provided the perfect luxurious touch to give highlights, reflections and a discreet sparkle to our interior. The owners were also enthusiastic, and so they became part of the project."

"What we've done is create a series of panel surfaces in which we've combined Swarovski crystals with leather and lacquer that serve as a palette for interior ▶



PHILMI

designers,” says Francis. “You are not so much aware of a material but of the highlights, and as you move around the panel you get all these different facets.”

Melot + Trillo were the first to use the new Swarovski surfaces for an interior project with *PhilMi*. Bronze-coloured crystals, for example, have been incorporated into the wall panels flanking the bronze statue, paying particular attention to disguising the junction between panels. After considerable research and several mock-ups, they have also been inserted into the centre of the bar surface in the main salon, surrounded by decorative sandblasted glass and hammered metallic edging. The studio also developed a custom solution for the ‘ciel de lit’ using Alcantara and crystals, while lines of rectangular ‘cosmic baguette’ crystals are recessed into the furniture and the Tybalt, Xylia, Florette and Zofia lamps of the cabins with greige crystals in the owners’ bedhead.

Although the innovative use of crystals provides a focal decorative feature, the interior design did not stop there. Melot + Trillo also had to come up with a workable solution to the couple’s wish not to have a customary fixed dining table in the main



OWNER'S SUITE



RUDDOLF SCHWERMA

MAIN SALON



ANGELO DONATELLO

ANNA TRILLO AND SANDRINE MELOT

salon. They devised two height-adjustable tables that can be joined when required to provide seating for 12 guests. This meant finding stowage space for two table leaves measuring 1.9m x 1m, which are cleverly stored behind the wall panels either side of the central statue. To maximise the natural light entering the owners' suite, they also convinced Andrea Vallicelli to create a large skylight over the bedroom and two smaller ones in the dressing room and bathroom.

The overall effect is delicate and discreetly low-key—an effect not always associated with some of Swarovski's more elaborate products. "The complexity and precision required for the work undertaken by Swarovski was perfect," concludes Melot. ■