

DESIGNER'S NOTES on 52' Sailing Catamaran, FEAR & HOPE

By Joe Artese

Interior & exterior

The commission for the Designer was to develop a rich interior for the sleek, high-performance lines designed by John Shuttleworth, Naval Architect, for this 52' aero-rig catamaran. In keeping with the call for a "high-tech" feel, the exterior color scheme, (dwg. #1112) is relatively unique and very sophisticated. The cabin top, decks, cockpit and rig are finished in metallic pewter, (silver), while the hulls are black.

The cabin windows and hull ports are set within metallic gray color bands. The color band in the hull, trimmed with gold, rounds the stem, races aft and arcs down to meet the waterline as it approaches the transom. The waterline stripe or "boot top" consists of three silver bands against the black hull. The logo "FEAR&HOPE" is cut out of 3/32" polished S.S. with beveled edges and applied to the cabin side just aft of the cabin windows.

The cockpit sole and swim deck are teak. The S.S. stern rails rotate open for access to the water and are removable for Zodiac stowage. The swim deck area sports an ultra-light fighting chair, fish cleaning station, barbecue and an aft facing lounge. Cockpit upholstery is tan Ultraleather. With auxiliary table and two folding chairs, the cockpit will seat up to 9 for meals

Exterior lighting plays on the sails, deck, and swim deck with aft floods and down lights mounted on the radar arch. Lighting in the covered cockpit is both white and red for task and all exterior mood lighting, under the seat fascias, for example, is red for night vision. There are also underwater lights emanating from the aft end of each hull

As one steps through the teak sliding companionway doors into the salon interior, one is immediately struck by the unusual abundance of natural light. With the cabin sides angled at 45 degrees, the large cabin windows are like skylights. In addition, there are four opening hatches and a cluster of five smaller fixed skylights in the cabin top that distribute and balance the light evenly. Some of the hatches have been etched with a palm leaf pattern that diffuses the light and creates a graceful fall of light and shadow throughout, highlighting and defining the sensuous shapes, teak moldings, and other details below.

Bleached teak is the predominant wood and is most abundant in the salon joinerwork. An unusual teak flitch was found for the veneers, which has an even-toned but curious, iridescent, "fiddleback" figure to it. The salon features a very comfortable lounge area that converts to dine eight, a 60 bottle wine cooler with a beveled glass crystal cabinet above. Also part of the salon is the chart table, navigation and communications center and a four seat bar from which the 33" plasma TV lifts and rotates automatically for theater. The audio/video cabinet is fitted out with the latest equipment. Each of the four cabins is also set up with a full compliment of audio/video processors including small LCD screen TV monitors. Lighting is indirect.

The galley and salon are unified by the use of absolute black granite surfaces contained by teak sea-rails. The exceptions are the teak chart table with ebony inlay and the table and bar surfaces, which are of rich walnut burl veneer set off by black surrounds. All of the stone surfaces are lightweight 1/4" thick veneers laminated to honeycomb substrate.

The galley equipment includes a deep double S.S. sink, trash compactor, icemaker, and 30" Kitchen Aid gas range and oven in black, with a custom set of pot retaining rails that will accommodate a large lobster pot. Above is a S.S. Amana 1.5 cu. ft. S.S. over-the-range m/w oven, 6.3 cu. ft. refrigerator-freezer combo, and another 9 cu. ft. custom refrigerator/ freezer drawer system. There are also two appliance garages, one between the sink and stove and another over the custom freezer.

The large settee has an elegant ebony trimmed walnut burl hi-lo coffee table that converts for dining to seat 8 with the use of two additional folding chairs.

A full complement of galley gear such as All-clad cook ware, small appliances and S.S. utensils, flat ware as well as China and stemware have been specified.

A nod to the "high-tech" nature of this yacht is found in the galley cabinets, which are finished in metallic pewter LP. This lighter theme segues down to the pantry and library half a level below in the starboard hull and down to the laundry and workshop area in the port hull.

Surprisingly, below decks, the natural light floods this area as well. Without being obvious to those up in the salon, transparent panels have been designed into the shelf surrounds under the cabin windows, that allow sunlight to pass through down into the otherwise darker areas below. The panels over the head and forward berth areas are obscured for privacy.

Throughout both hulls, there are many opening hatches with the palm leaf etch. The rig can be viewed from any vantage point. Again, sunlight and shadow play over the functional but sculptural teak handholds surrounding the venturi-like doorways to each space. This creates an interesting visual and tactile experience, rather like moving under a forest canopy through passageways that invite a caress.

Here below, all of the horizontal surfaces are a soft creamy shaved marble. As we move forward and aft into the lighter ends of the boat, the pallet gets lighter as well. The cabinetry here transitions from the pewter to a warm white color. Throughout, the teak and holly cabin soles, teak sea-rails and strategically placed handholds, as well as the unified colors of the headliner and padded Ultraleather bulkheads, unify the whole theme. In the forward head and shower areas, the sea-rail around the sinks is of polished Oval 316 S.S. as are the handholds and shelves in the showers (dwg. #2205). The chromed head and galley mixers as well as the aluminum door handles have been customized by replacing the stock, flat end caps with subtly curved turned pieces that are gold plated (dwgs. #2208, 2209).

Another unique but very practical feature is the use of scuppered condensation and drip gutters below all windows and hull ports.

The 52' catamaran, Fear & Hope, is designed to express a high level of polish and sophistication, and richness in texture and finish. And, as the signature of a Joseph Artese interior, the interior displays a cascading of natural light in all areas.