

STARE





# MARVELLOUS metamorphosis

## Expedition Vessel Alucia

"Most simply stated, our clients want to fall in love with their yachts and as designers, our fundamental mission is to create the object of their dreams: an exciting, functional, satisfying seagoing work of art."

– Joseph Artese

Words: TANYA GOODMAN  
Images: © DEEP OCEAN EXPEDITIONS/ NEIL RABINOWITZ





As an artist, Joseph Artese is a perfectionist who designs with a keen appreciation and respect for the particular needs of each of his clients, taking the time to ascertain, understand and creatively expand on their desires. His attention to detail is legendary among the yards with whom he has interfaced and his custom yachts have been recognised by both the International Superyacht Society and the ShowBoats Design Awards.

Artese was commissioned by Deep Ocean Expeditions to refit the French-built 55.7-metre (185-foot) research vessel *Alucia* (formally known as *Nadir*), redefining her interior spaces and providing exterior cosmetics.

demonstrates Artese's sense of human engineering; he designs spaces that are safe for use in extreme conditions, seating that invites lounging, and functional galleys and stairways that are expressions of grace. *Alucia's* fundamental styling is contemporary with a distinct hi-tech feel, maple joiner work and brushed stainless steel with an aqua colour scheme. *Alucia* now serves as a modern oceanographic research vehicle and a mother ship to her submersible fleet – twin Deep Rovers and Dual Deep Worker – with accommodation that meets, and exceeds, the expectations of any luxury superyacht clients.

The original space was gutted and the 20-metre long passageway that connects these living spaces – from the helicopter and submarine decks

the yacht. The windows include blackout shades for viewing the day's rushes on a 50-inch plasma screen.

The client requested that the entire main salon bulkhead have an aquamarine glow. Artese designed a series of maple-framed electroluminescent, back-lighted Lumicor panels for this underwater effect. A spiral staircase connects the observation deck above with the salon and then descends to the guest accommodation deck below, which includes four triple staterooms for the scientific team, captain's cabin, ship's office as well as the owner's and VIP staterooms.

On announcing her launch, Expedition Project Manager, Rob McCallum, said, "*Alucia* is perhaps the most capable private expedition



*Alucia* was originally owned and operated by the French ocean research institute IFREMER, where she functioned as principal support ship and launch/recovery platform for the *Nautile*, one of the world's few (four) submersibles capable of diving to 6,000 metres. Her new owners at Deep Ocean Expeditions are passionately involved in the preservation of marine life, are serious underwater documentary film makers and are also avid art lovers. These elements combined to form the inspiration and point of departure for Artese.

The fundamental design question was how to combine the demands of a high-tech research charter vessel with the desire to achieve bold, artistic expression and a luxurious experience at sea. The result clearly

aft to the foredeck – was expanded to become an art gallery displaying the lavish images produced by the deep-sea explorers. Artese laid out a whole new bridge deck from the pilothouse aft to include a grand salon and dining area with floor-to-ceiling windows that wrap around the rear of

vessel ever built. Her three submersibles, complex dive support systems, sonar capacity, high technology communication systems and helicopter support provide her with unparalleled functionality and a global reach. Conceived as a deep-sea exploration vessel, her ability to chart, visit and explore the abyss to 3,280 feet equips her well to make a meaningful contribution to the scientific knowledge of our planet's last frontier: the deep sea."

Now ready to embark on a series of Pacific expeditions, *Alucia* is also available to private clients seeking adventure of a totally different kind. To view Artese's other designs, visit [www.artesedesign.com](http://www.artesedesign.com). To enquire about *Alucia*, contact Expedition Project Manager Rob McCallum at [rob@deepoceanexpeditions.com](mailto:rob@deepoceanexpeditions.com). ☼

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