

For Release Anytime

Joseph Artese Design Yacht Interior Refit Provides Artistic Flair to Underwater Scientific Research Vessel

185' R/V Alucia

Seattle, Washington: Joseph Artese Design has today released its designer notes on the interior refit of the 185' R/V *Alucia*, the French built research vessel (formally R/V *Nadir*). From the designer's studio, here are comments regarding the project.

The Questions

Can a serious research charter vessel with its own submarines also become a bold artistic expression?

How does one design a 60' long passageway so that it is not a boring and claustrophobic experience?

The Solutions

Well, it helps if one's clients 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 designer Joseph Artese.

Artese was commissioned by DeepOcean Quest to develop the 185' R/V *Alucia's* interior spaces and to provide some work on exterior cosmetics (for example, *Alucia* came fitted out with an A-Frame for launching and retrieving two two-man subs). Her fundamental styling is Euro-minimalist with a distinct hi-tech feel, maple joiner work and brushed stainless steel with an aqua color scheme.

Artese laid out a whole new bridge deck from the pilothouse aft to include a whale tracking room and a grand salon and dining area with floor to ceiling windows which wrap around the aft end of the yacht. The windows include blackout shades for viewing the day's rushes on a 50" plasma screen. Artese chose limestone countertops that resemble the bottom of the sea.

The client requested that the entire main salon bulkhead have an aquamarine glow. Artese designed a series of 2' x3' maple-framed Electro-Luminescent, 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.

The original space was gutted and the 60' long passageway that connects these living spaces—with the helicopter and submarine decks aft—was expanded to become an "art gallery" displaying the lavish images produced by the deep sea explorers.

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No longer just a passageway, the “Gallery” was created as a design entity in and of itself, using borrowed space from the gracious accommodations. Each of the staterooms opens on to this “grotto like” artistic display of marine life

Naval architect, Boris Kirilloff, was brought in to engineer the project and design a helicopter pad and hanger for both the bird and the subs which track to their respective berths. He also did extensive renovations of the crew’s quarters and science labs.

The Marine Artisans Group fabricated and installed the interior.

The re-fit is underway in Seattle by DeepOcean Quest and is expected to be fully operational and ready for scientific charter in late November 2008.

Alucia—Primary Specifications

Length	185’
Beam	38’ 10”
Build	France, 1973, as R/V <i>Nadir</i>
Engines—<i>new</i>	2x Cummings 16,000 hp KTA50
Generators	3x 250KW Detroit diesels series 60
Submersibles	2 -man subs, 3,280’ (depth)
Helicopter	Ecureuil AS355 N

[Alucia’s Designer’s Portfolio: Accompanying File](#)

R/V Alucia in Artic Waters Fully Equipped for All Exploration

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