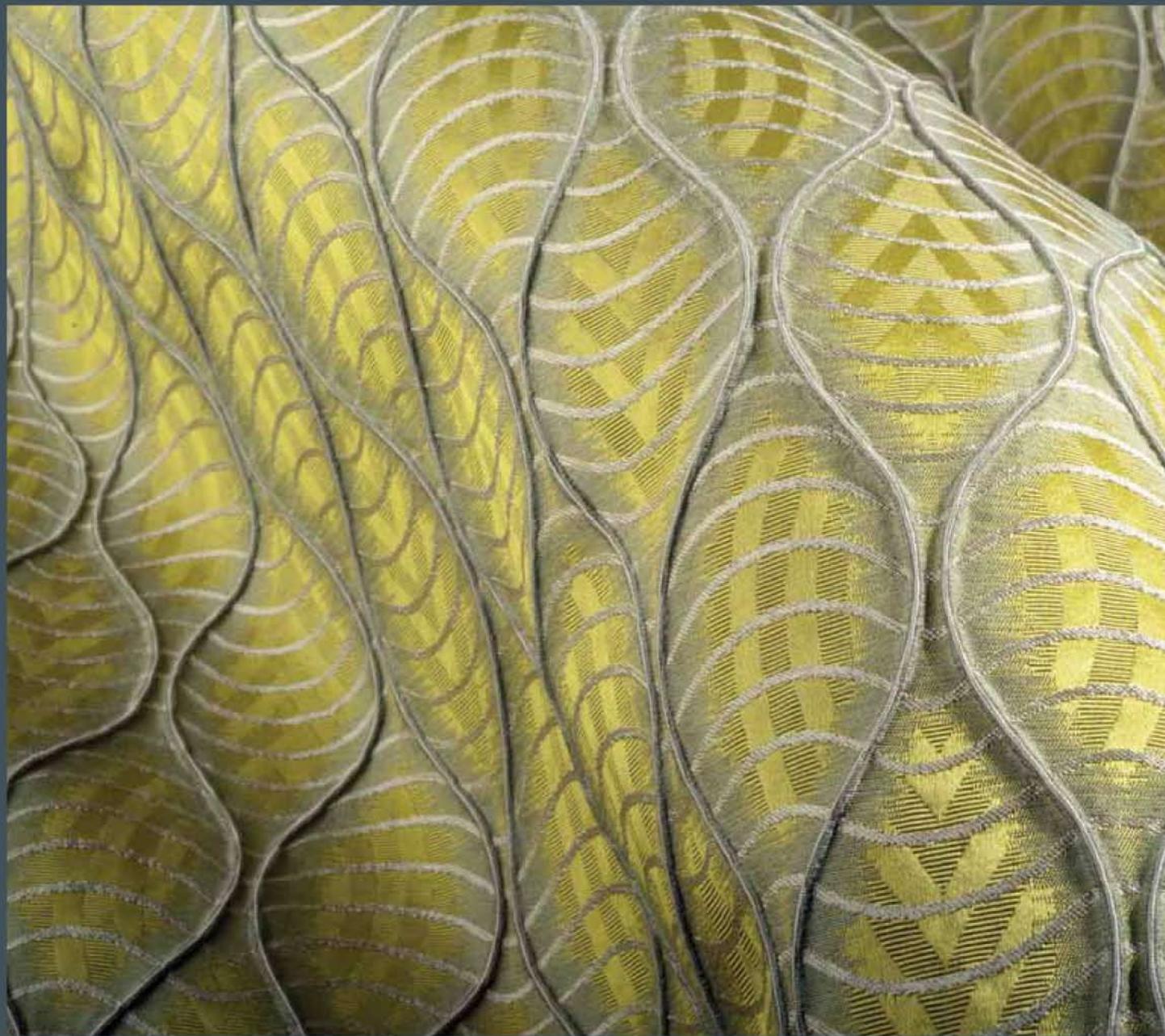


# Superyacht

INTERIOR DESIGN

EXTERIOR SPACE

CREATIVITY AND ARCHITECTURE



# DESIGN

## CASE STUDY

Frank Laupman talks about the growth of Omega Architects with the launch of *Galactica Star*.

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## TOP YACHT

*Inukshuk* takes environmental inspiration to the next level with a truly personal interior.

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## DESIGN EVENT

Discover which yachts made it into our Six of the Best interiors present at MYS.

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## PERSPECTIVES

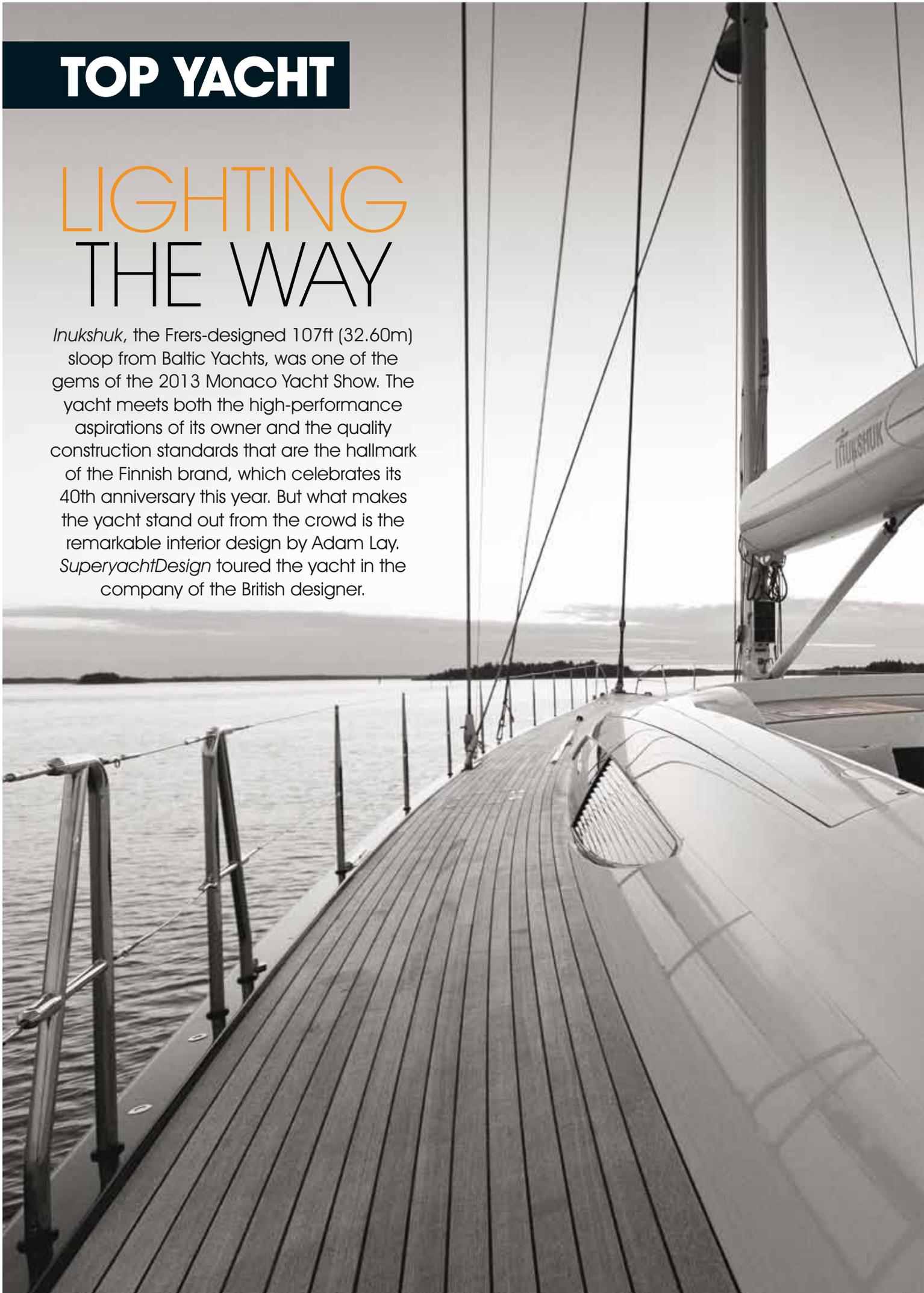
To what extent do Flag states impact on design and should designers have better relationships with registries?

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# TOP YACHT

## LIGHTING THE WAY

*Inukshuk*, the Frers-designed 107ft (32.60m) sloop from Baltic Yachts, was one of the gems of the 2013 Monaco Yacht Show. The yacht meets both the high-performance aspirations of its owner and the quality construction standards that are the hallmark of the Finnish brand, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. But what makes the yacht stand out from the crowd is the remarkable interior design by Adam Lay. *SuperyachtDesign* toured the yacht in the company of the British designer.







ADAM LAY ABOARD INUKSHUK

JUSTIN RATCLIFFE

Adam Lay is best known for his classic interiors with a contemporary twist aboard yachts such as *S/Y Salperton*, *S/Y Endeavour* and *M/Y Lady Kathryn V*. But the designer's interior projects to date have been based on client preferences, as opposed to any 'house style' of his own. This became abundantly clear when I stepped down into *Inukshuk's* salon. Faced with a challenging brief from an experienced client, the long-term owner of a Swan 82, Lay has produced a delightfully eclectic interior that is substantially different from anything we have seen before on a sailing yacht of comparable size.

"Coming from a semi-production boat, the owner was keen to do something personal, so he asked me to recreate the colours and textures of a favourite lakeland area in North America," says Lay, who is under strict instructions not to reveal the exact location. "He loves the rocks, the lichen, the trees and the water, so his brief to me was to take cues—quite literally in some cases—from nature."

Working from photographs of the region, the designer's starting point was

the foam-cored, oak dining table made by Parkway Interiors in Southampton, UK with an aluminium internal frame for rigidity as it doubles as a handrail while under way. The table top, perched on a central pedestal of branch-like legs made out of high-density foam, was stained very dark to resemble wood that had been pulled from the bottom of a lake, while the legs were painted to look like real branches and have been chipped and scarred to appear even more realistic. The table is accompanied by dining chairs designed by Barbara Barry with a blue-green verdigris finish that complements the palette of natural tones and textures.

The fixed furniture of brushed, silver-painted and limed oak provides a neutral backdrop for the free-standing pieces, colourful fabrics and framed artwork, which means a future owner can easily revert back to a more conventional décor. In an age where owners demand ever more perfect natural materials, to the point where they sometimes appear artificial, the client was happy to accept varying grains and even knots in the veneers. The fabric wall panels are by Lelievre and made of grey Trevira CS, a textile that is permanently flame-retardant rather than just surface treated.

The artwork consists principally of images by the Polish landscape photographer Janusz Wrobel whose work focuses—not unsurprisingly—on the North American wilderness. His images, which he personally



## INUKSHUK BALTIC YACHTS

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MAIN SALON AND  
DINING AREA

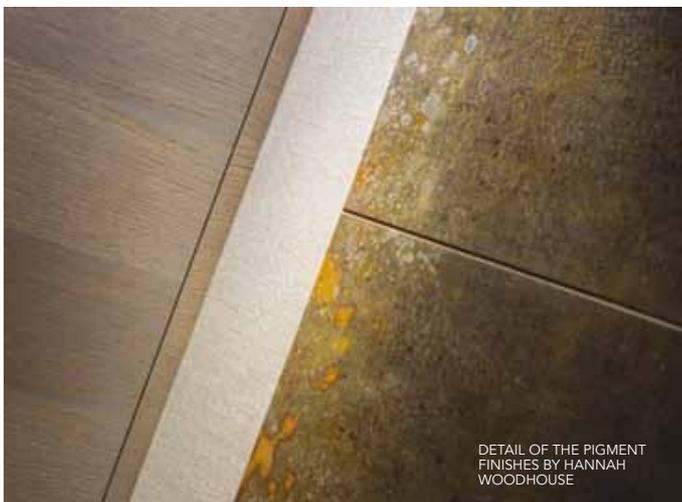
JEFF BROWN



prints, finishes and frames, are imbued with extraordinary clarity and were chosen by the owner to harmonise with the colours and themes governing the interior design of the yacht.

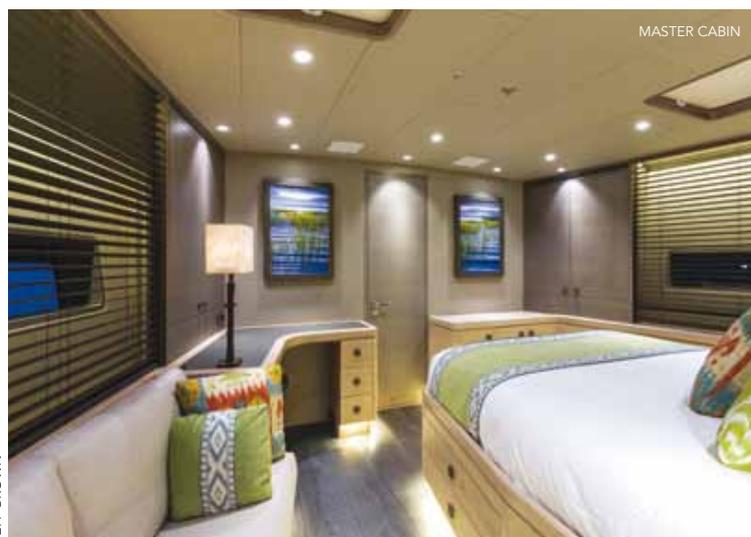
Although the interior design was centred on the dining table, the most eye-catching feature are the three 'stones' anchored to the sole on the portside of the salon adjacent to the divan. Made of high-density foam and clad in painted fibreglass, they were devised by Lay who shaped them himself with a saw and rotary sander.

"It didn't seem to me like the usual arrangement with a couple of coffee tables was going to meet the brief," says Lay. "So I suggested that we do some stones and the concept developed from there. The idea is that when you're sitting on the divan, the end stones are flat, so you can put a tray of ▶





**The colour scheme for the fabrics and finishes in the cabins drew on a school of early 20th century painters known as the Group of Seven, whose work was inspired by the North American landscape.**



drinks on them. Only the middle stone is shaped more for ornament.”

To say the giant ‘pebbles’ are unusual is putting it mildly. They were a brave choice by the owner and even Lay was initially concerned they might appear “too Disney”. But they fulfil both an aesthetic and functional purpose and suit the interior theme perfectly. Lay likens them to dinosaur eggs and points out that they also serve as pleasantly tactile footrests when barefoot. During a cocktail party held on board at the show the owner phoned the designer to gauge public opinion of these stones. “Do they like the stones?” he asked eagerly. “They love them,” responded Lay.

The custom lamps and wall sconces

throughout are by Hannah Woodhouse, a sculptor whose approach to lamp design has been likened to John Galliano’s influence on the world of fashion. Welded from aluminium with a bronzed finish and eucalyptus paper shades, the expressionistic fixtures resemble forms in nature, such as antler horns. Two lamps in the main salon have been fashioned to look like the yacht’s namesake: an *inukshuk* is an Inuit landmark or talisman, vaguely humanoid in shape, often used as a way finder much like a cairn. The owner’s personal *inukshuk*, a small sculpture fashioned from stone, stands on a side table.

Forward of the mast housing, clad in embossed leather that resembles tree

bark, is the owner’s office (Lay calls it a “man cave”), the master suite and VIP cabin. The colour scheme for the fabrics and finishes in the cabins drew on a school of early 20th century painters known as the Group of Seven, whose work was inspired by the North American landscape. In fact, the owner instructed Lay to visit the Dulwich Gallery in London to see an exhibition of their paintings. Woodhouse also produced a series of artwork panels above the bedheads that the owner wanted to look like lichen.

“Hannah embraced the idea and asked me for a list of plants indigenous to the owner’s favourite region,” explains Lay. “She researched the list and found that some of them ▶



produce berries. She ordered these berries, had them shipped to her studio in France, and used them to mix natural pigments in the yellow, green and ochre tones I'd requested."

This kind of attention to detail is an indication of the lengths the interior designer and his suppliers—along with the shipyard that built the fitted furniture and many of the custom details—went to in order to meet the owner's brief. It is continued in the satellite switches for the Woodhouse light fixtures, which the artist fashioned in the style of the lamps themselves, or the grey Spinneybeck leather on the Turnstyle door handles that has been carried through to the hanging hooks, bathroom accessories and scribes on the desks. Grey is also the colour of the French limestone washbasins that

have been sandblasted and brushed to look like river stone, or rock that has been eroded by the sea.

The close involvement of a hands-on owner is always evident in a yacht project and invariably results in a more distinguished design. Moreover, an experienced owner usually means a demanding client, which ups the ante for all concerned. *Inukshuk* was no exception, as confirmed by the client's project manager, Nigel Ingram of MCM.

"The owner set the bar for the project very high, and the extraordinary interior design from Adam Lay Studio presented many challenges to implement," says Ingram. "This is not the largest yacht that Baltic has built, but in detail and quality of build it is their best so far." ■

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