



FIFTH OCEAN YACHTS®

WE CRAFT THE FINEST STEEL AND ALUMINUM CUSTOM YACHTS
TO DELIVER TAILOR MADE DREAMS TO OUR OWNERS



Erik Spek

Interview with *Erik Spek* from *Azure Yacht Design and Naval Architecture*

Q: What are the mandatory features of the ultimate custom yacht?

A: It should be economical, efficient, modern, luxurious, low maintenance, etc. This topics reflects to several items of the yacht, hull shape, systems, materials, etc.

Q: What are the features of a shipyard to be able to build a super yacht?

A: Important items: Reliable partner, financial strong, good perception, do what you have promised and deliver good quality.

Q: What new materials would you suggest to use for jointwork?

A: I am not an interior specialist but modern materials are trendy, no wood, stones, exotic leathers, less details.

Q: If you were designing an explorer yacht for yourself what would be the philosophy behind it?

A: Build it according items as mentioned on item 1 and 2. These are the trending topics of these days.

Q: What is going to be the trend of yacht design in the future?

A: See above, it reflexes mostly on the same but it is also pending on the personal taste of the Owner, several Owners still likes the classic style still. Than you have to respect this as well.

Q: What do you consider as your greatest achievement in your carrier?

A: I did a lot of great project during the time, Cakewalk, Oceanco's, Snowbird, but one of the most extraordinary yacht was Ecstasea, 86meter with a turbine propulsion similar to a Boeing 747... I was project manager at that time for the engineering department. But helping to build the company Azure from noting to where we are today is something I'm personally even more proud of.

Q: How do you feel about shadow vessel?

A: I like the idea and I can imagine that Owners will buy these kind of vessels. This vessels are very flexible and easy to use and maintain compare to bigger yachts were all items and supplies are permanent on.



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Q: Displacement yachts vs. planning yachts: what is your suggestion to a new client?

A: This is personal for the Owner, we currently designing most of the projects displacement but Lucia-M was semi and this is really something special and spectacular. Smaller yachts (under the 40meter) are more often semi-displacement than the bigger yachts. We are currently working for 80% on bigger boats.

Q: In your experience, witch type of vessel are more appealing to new customers: motor yacht or sailing yacht?

A: Also really personal to the Owner, I think if you are a 'Sailer' you stay a 'sailer' and vice-versa. Sometimes older Owners of a sailing boat step over to a Motor yacht. The market of Motor Yachts is much bigger than Sailing Yachts.

Q: Which yacht would be interesting for you to design, that you have not designed yet?

A: We have done a lot already but a yacht for Fifth Ocean Yachts, as the Ice Class would be for sure one of the favorites.

Q: What was your most unusual project among motor yachts?

A: We are currently working on a few 'specials', due confidentiality I can't tell more.

Q: Steel yachts vs. composite yachts: what do you prefer?

A: Most of the bigger (displacement) yachts are steel, Composite will be mainly used for semi-displacement yachts. Alternative is aluminum.

Q: What characteristics are unique for ice class yachts?

A: I'm not a specialist in Ice-class but the sailing range will be bigger, it will be possible to sail in Northern regions were 'normal' yachts are not allowed.

Q: Why trawler yachts are so popular nowadays?

A: I don't know, is it? We have done one Research Vessel, specifically to dive and do research under water but this is quite unique.



Azure NA at Monaco Boat Show 2013