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## *Shinkai*, a 55m true superyacht explorer with a no compromise approach

- *Shinkai is the eighth superyacht to be launched by Philippe Briand's Vitruvius Yachts*
- *The yacht's design brief focused on very particular requirements; in this case, serving as the base for operations of a 6.3-tonne, three-person submersible for pioneering underwater exploration*
- *Shinkai is both an attractive superyacht and a powerful explorer*
- *A special infographic to discover the project is now available*

The custom superyacht *Shinkai* was recently transferred from Feadship's construction hallway in Aalsmeer to the builder's outside dock for final outfitting ahead of her sea trials. She is the eighth superyacht to be launched from Philippe Briand's Vitruvius Yachts studio, with construction and co-naval architecture carried out by Feadship De Vries, while Daniela Boutsen has provided her interior design. Together, the eminent group has pushed the boundaries of what might be considered both a superyacht and an explorer at the same time. And herein lay the challenge for Briand and his team.

*"This is a special project for us, as Shinkai is the second yacht that we have designed for her owner. In fact, he was the first yachtsman to embrace the benefits of Vitruvius's efficient hulls,"* says Philippe Briand. The result is a 55m, 974GT motor yacht demonstrating the following characteristics:

- **High-tech**  
Adventurous *Shinkai* can reach the most remote places on the planet. She is ice-classed and stabilized by a vast mono gyroscope, which has never been specified on a yacht of this scale before. The 23-tonne gyroscope is particularly important for operations of the submersible, which needs a perfectly stable launching platform. It is also beneficial when navigating through waters at high latitudes, replacing conventional fin stabilisers which are at risk of being damaged by ice and flotsam, and are inefficient at low speeds.
- **Comfortable**  
A departure from the characteristic low-profile aesthetic of Vitruvius Yachts, *Shinkai* spans four decks plus an observatory setting, in order that the spaces inside meet the detailed requirements of the very experienced client. The owner's cabin is

positioned forward in the superstructure, with an exceptional area of 73sqm and a 135-degree view through full-height reinforced windows. There are four further guest suites, while seven cabins for 12 crew complete the accommodations.

- **Explorer**

*Shinkai* carries a wide variety serious toys, such as her 7,400kg U-Boat Worx submersible for three passengers. “I imagine it would have made Jean Jacques Cousteau jealous of such bright possibility to explore underwater!” adds Briand. The yacht’s design includes an extended aft deck to support the toys that make for a truly adventurous expedition, including 4x4 land vehicle, a large limousine tender, and multiple robust RIBs.

- **Aesthetic**

The Vitruvius “touch of design” assures the seamless integration of both “facets” of the project: an attractive superyacht and a powerful explorer. The high freeboard and superstructure are cut by a set of longitudinal lines, each having its own movement and *raison d’être*.

- **Sustainability**

With *Shinkai*’s far-reaching cruising plans to explore the planet comes the responsibility to be environmentally sensitive in her operations, which Philippe Briand took into account when designing her hull lines. Even with the yacht’s generous displacement of 974GT, her hull resistance has been optimised to deliver a reasonable fuel consumption of 19.5L per nautical mile at a cruising speed of 12 knots.

Once she is delivered, her owner plans to extensively cruise around the world, from the frigid polar regions to the warmer tropics on the equator. With the capabilities afforded by her submersible and other toys, *Shinkai* is primed to provide those onboard with the chance to explore the oceans in three dimensions, both at the surface and well beneath it, too.

## Specs

Light ship weight: 746t

Full load: 983t

Gross tonnage: 974GT

Top speed: 14.5kt

Range: 5,500 nm @ 12kt

Consumption: 19.5 L/nm (without hotel load)

Gyroscope: Gyromarine

Submersible: U-Boat Worx for 3 pax (7,400kg)

## VITRUVIUS YACHTS

The internationally acclaimed naval architect and yacht designer Philippe Briand is a driving force in his field. He made his name designing award-winning sailing yachts under his own brand name ([www.philippebriand.com](http://www.philippebriand.com)) and building on that experience has led him to create a revolutionary range of motor yachts: [[www.Vitruviusyachts.com](http://www.Vitruviusyachts.com)]. Inspired by a childhood sailing in the yachting centre of La Rochelle, France, Philippe Briand has dedicated his life to perfecting the art of conquering the sea. His designs stand out for their technical excellence and precision, combined with his strong artistic flair and ability to drive innovative design trends as he seeks perfection. As one of the founders of Water Revolution Foundation he contributes to the standards moving towards the neutralisation of the ecological footprint of the yachting industry, and Vitruvius Yachts are 30% more efficient than other yachts of comparable size. With over 12,000 boats built to date Philippe Briand could reasonably be considered the most prolific yacht designer of our time. His loyal client base of extremely discerning owners appreciate his collaborative approach to design – they are involved at every stage of shaping their own remarkable superyacht. With offices in both London and La Rochelle, Briand and his team of designers and engineers work with yacht owners around the world who are looking for the very best.

The impressive range of Vitruvius Yachts may range in size to over 100m in length. Briand's meticulous attention to detail means they are perfected to the nearest millimetre. This dedicated approach to intelligent, sustainable yet stunningly elegant design has been recognised internationally with 34 prestigious yacht awards so far.

Philippe Briand is available for interview by contacting...

[Philippe Briand has yachts under construction at Feadship, Perini Navi, Rossinavi and Sanlorenzo]

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