



The top 40 trailblazers

They took styling cues from bug-eyed Parisian buses, levied terrifying bets on contract speeds, tested the limits of structural glass, plated staircases in silver and redefined the explorer yacht. The last four decades in superyachting have offered a frenzy of innovation, passion and ingenious solutions.

Marilyn Mower leads us through 40 of the most significant superyachts—and a few honourable mentions—from the past 40 years





SERENE

133.9M, 2011, FINCANTIERI

The first superyacht from an Italian cruise ship builder, this SOLAS-classed yacht's volume is a staggering 8,231GT. Unique amenities among seven decks include multiple fireplaces, a spa with a snow room, a Nemo room with underwater viewing ports, two helipads and a helihanger, and stowage for a mini-sub. Her diesel-electric power plant is fuelled by eight MTUs. Espen Øino's well-proportioned exterior is elevated by Reymond Langton's imaginative and luxurious use of space and decor. Originally built for Russian vodka mogul Yuri Shefler, she was sold in 2014.

DESIGN DYNAMO: PHILIPPE BRIAND

Briand says he began designing sailing boats at age 11. Perhaps that is not surprising, since his father was an Olympic sailor and owned the largest sail loft in France. To date, Briand believes there are 12,500 of his boats on the water, including 175 production models, created during the last 40 years. Like most sailing yacht designers, Briand was a racer, notching two world championships as a helmsman. The boats that he and his team designed have achieved nine world titles. He

America's Cup campaigns.

Although he never studied naval architecture or marine engineering, he's won 34 yacht

also designed yachts for six

design awards.

