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Cakewalk to become largest launch from a USA yard

An exclusive look at the design process behind the 85.6m motor yacht

▶ When *Cakewalk* is delivered in 2010, the six-deck 85.6m project currently under construction at Derektor in Connecticut will be the largest yacht built in the USA in more than three quarters of a century. In fact, her designer, Tim Heywood, says, 'I think in terms of volume, she is the largest private yacht ever built in America.'

To the man behind this monumental project, a highly experienced yachtsman who, along with his wife, has owned four previous large *Cakewalks*, that is precisely the point. 'The owner really wanted to build the boat in the USA, he wanted to prove we could build a European quality vessel here,' says his captain and project manager, Bill Zinser.

The main prerequisite in selecting a shipyard for the project, however, was to find one that combined both yacht building and commercial boat building expertise. 'You have to have a commercial shipyard mentality to build a project this big,' says Zinser.

Derektor, which has locations in Connecticut, New York and Florida, has built more than 250 vessels ranging from America's Cup defenders to high-speed ferries. The yard has a good track record with the owners, having transformed the 40m *Feadship Finella* into the third *Cakewalk* in 1996, adding nearly three metres to her length – at the time, one of the biggest refit projects in the USA.

The contract for the new *Cakewalk* was signed in June 2006. Today, her steel hull and aluminium superstructure are complete and work is well under way on the interior.

For the exterior design, the owner turned to a master with experience working on a large scale. For London-based designer Tim Heywood, 85.6m isn't daunting – it isn't even the biggest yacht he's done. The 132.9m *Al Mirqab* holds that place of honour, with the 114.9m *Pelorus* not far

behind. According to Heywood, the owner's brief for *Cakewalk* was 'to create a yacht with timeless elegance that would be equally successful as a private yacht or a charter yacht'. Their brief for the exterior styling was 'contemporary, classic, and something that will not date', Heywood says. 'The clients wanted us to take some elements of our previous work and take it forward and produce something uniquely for them.'

His arrangement for the yacht's interior also represents fresh thinking, particularly in the guest areas, combined with proven strategies for ensuring discreet and efficient crew service. 'It's a kind of classic layout but refined considerably,' he says.

Cakewalk's main deck layout is unusual, as guests entering via the foyer or aft doors are welcomed into a large, elegant library, rather than the traditional main saloon. The partially enclosed formal dining area is encompassed within the library's footprint along the yacht's centreline. The six guest cabins are also on the main deck, where their occupants will enjoy expansive sea views through large windows.

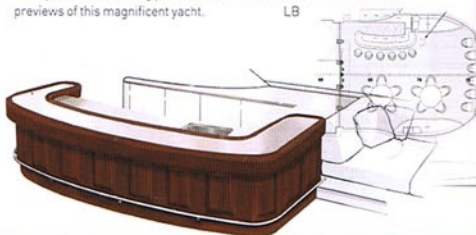
The owner's deck is a private palace. A gymnasium/aerobics studio, spa/massage room and huge, separate his and hers bathrooms are included in the apartment, along with a full-beam study and a bedroom with a king berth facing 180 degrees of windows.

'Every room is going to have something visually interesting and inspiring; something to catch your eye,' says Liz Dalton, *Cakewalk's* interior designer. Thanks to her 14.3m beam, the scale of the new *Cakewalk's* rooms is breathtaking. 'When the spaces are so vast and there are a lot of different spaces, they all have to work together,' says Dalton. 'I would call this a modern version of a classic design.'

The owners are highly involved in the project, lending their experience to the team they have formed.

Stay tuned as we bring you a series of exclusive, behind-the-scenes previews of this magnificent yacht.

LB



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Cakewalk

LOA	85.6m
LWL	75.68m
Beam	14.3m
Draft	4m
Expected speed (max/cruise)	17/15 knots
Interior design	Elizabeth Dalton, Dalton Designs
Exterior design	Tim Heywood Designs
Naval architecture	Azure Naval Architects
Classification	Lloyd's #100 A1 SSC YACHT (PI) MONO G6
Construction	Steel hull, aluminium superstructure
Owner and guests	12
Staff	2
Crew	24
Builder	Derecktor, Connecticut, USA