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Icebreaker

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KING BENJI REIGNS SUPREME

By Roxanne Hughes



Jeff Brown

Delivered at the end of 2023, 47m King Benji is set to command the oceans and rule the waves, taking her owner and charter guests on worldwide adventures.

The full-custom superyacht was built by Dunya Yachts in Turkey to a design by Gregory C. Marshall Naval Architect Ltd and features an interior by UK-based design studio, Design Unlimited. We spoke to Design Unlimited's creative director, Mark Tucker, to find out more.

"I have to start by recognising the owner's incredible vision and ambition to create something truly unique,"

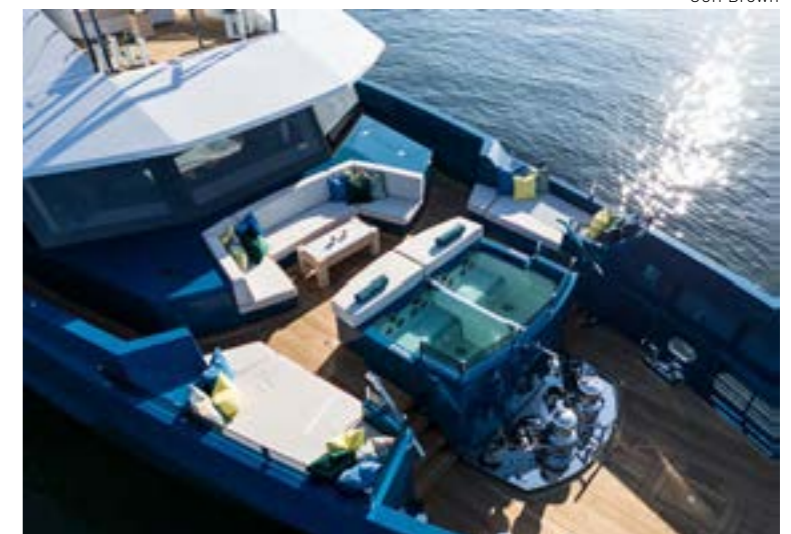
begins Tucker. "This was his first new-build superyacht commission, and he placed great trust in our team to design a living environment that was fun, flexible, and broke away from the typical superyacht 'fuss'."

The interior design is reminiscent of lush tropics and ocean-side landscapes – an inspiring starting point for an explorer yacht. The interior spaces are captivating yet relaxing, they champion comfort and the spirit of adventure. Organic textures, bold feature walls and statement furniture pieces create spaces that perfectly combine luxury with nature.

The boat's interior theme centres on natural finishes and a connection with the elements. "This is both in terms of the biophilic imagery used throughout the boat," comments Tucker, "and a visual connection with your surroundings."

The vibrant colour palette really does feel tropical, and the seamless transition between interior spaces and the open decks creates a very al fresco lifestyle.

"One aspect I think has been particularly effective across the interior, is the ambient lighting," says Tucker. "Back-lit panels and carefully concealed strips of light make the interior come alive in a playful way." And the attention to detail is apparent at every turn, from bamboo ceilings and hand-painted wallpapers to intricate stitching on linens and leather, and patterned metalwork. The interplay and juxtaposition of these materials adds another layer to the yacht's incredible design credentials.



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A whole deck has been set aside for the owner and this provides a private relaxation area with a lounge adjacent to the distinctive master suite. The ensuite bathroom is equipped with a steam shower and his-and-hers vanity units. King Benji then has four guest suites, all of which have their own ocean-themed feature wall, and the yacht can accommodate 10 in total.

As you'd expect, meals and refreshments can be enjoyed at various locations around the yacht. There's a casual breakfast bar right next to the galley and adjacent to an enormous panel of glazing, and the bridge deck is a showstopper with an outdoor dining area, teppanyaki grill, and plenty of space to entertain.

King Benji's striking exterior and bright blue hull assert this yacht's strength and rugged ability, but with a less intimidating profile.

Exterior spaces aboard the yacht include the aft toy deck, which accommodates a six-metre tender, a 2.5-metre tender and



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four jet skis, all deployed by crane. And when the tenders are in the water, this space swiftly transforms into a large beach club deck.

The main deck has sizeable spaces both at the bow and stern. "The bow captures a lot of sunshine and features multiple sun loungers, one of which hides a Jacuzzi underneath," says Tucker. And an observation pod on the top deck provides an intimate space to take in every aspect of your surroundings, with unobstructed 360-degree views.

Charter managers IYC highlight King Benji's versatile deck layout and world-renowned design credentials as being a big draw for charterers, along with the yacht's sophisticated, subterranean charm.

King Benji is a yacht that will surprise and delight all those who step aboard. We have been won over by the yacht's charismatic personality and alluring style. This is one superyacht sure to hold court.



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