

SuperYachtWorld

The global magazine for superyacht owners

Amazing GRACE E

Finding inner peace aboard
this 73-metre Vitruvius



MY CHARTER YEAR
The stories, the places, the
people: 23 Captains' tales

Polaris: A yacht that never stops
The very best of Baselworld
Brilliant yachts to buy today



Grace F

The largest Vitruvius to date
combines beauty and brains
Alexandra Groom



*Establishing a CONNECTION
with the SEA was an important
philosophy behind the DESIGN*



“**T**hey wanted it all, and they have it all,” says Veerle Battiau, director of Vitruvius Yachts, as we discuss the ‘wellness deck’, one of *Grace E*’s most recognisable features. “When we first met to discuss the original Vitruvius model they asked whether we would consider going a little bigger, up to 54 metres, so we went away and Philippe Briand, the naval architect, did the plans. But then they said: ‘If we’re going to do this, we really need to build a yacht for the next ten years. We need something really forward thinking, somewhere where we can look after our health and well-being.’ After we discussed the ‘wellness’ idea, the first thing we did was incorporate the pool. It’s a real exercise pool so we had to stretch the boat. We added ten metres, and then ten more and another deck, and finally ended up with 73 metres!”

Grace E is about as custom as they come, and nowhere is this more clear than on the wellness deck. Eddie Cooney, the captain on *Grace E*, explains that the owners were very involved in the build: “Their input and ideas were very much a part of the process, especially involving the spa element, but also with the form and function of the design and layout.”

A spacious gym aft is enclosed by large sliding windows, allowing for hot and cold-weather training with panoramic views. A run on the treadmill offers the rather wonderful vista of the wake and disappearing land. Forward through the top-of-the-range gym and you are greeted by a spa many five-star hotels would be proud of. A solid Carrara marble cold plunge-pool leads into a large sauna, and there is also a hydrotherapy bath. Next door is a massage suite, where a permanent on board masseuse can offer up to seven different types of massage, as well as facials, manicures and pedicures. Further forward still is the observation room,



Above: The wellness deck has an outdoor jacuzzi and casual dining options.
Left: The observation room is a sheltered spot perfect for whiling away the hours while on the move.
Right: A cold plunge pool and the hydrotherapy bath on the peaceful wellness deck.
Top right: Custom sunpads swivel 360° and have a retractable shade.
Above right: The massage suite is a haven of relaxation and wellbeing.
Far right: A high spec gym includes top range equipment, plenty of space for mat work, two large television screens and panoramic views aft.





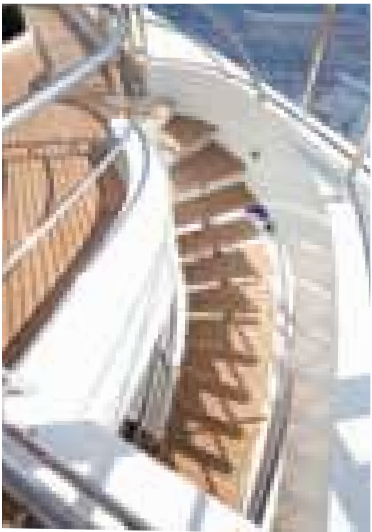
“The owners wanted everything they ENJOY on board, and they’re very GENEROUS hosts”

where, post-massage, one can relax on the sofas and greet the approaching horizon. A door opens onto two futuristic-looking sunpads. Able to swivel 360° to catch (or hide from) the rays, they are equipped with an electric shade, which can be raised up and down. A circular walkway connects this enclave to the deck aft of the gym but, in true custom style, if you prefer some privacy, little LED lights just above the deck will glow red to alert crew or other guests to come back later.

“The owners wanted everything they enjoy on board, and not just a salon, sauna and fitness room, but also family and friends. They’re very generous, and they wanted their guests to be a part of it. They wanted all the children and the whole family to have their privacy,” says Veerle.

Grace E has been cruising in the Caribbean since her debut at the 2014 Monaco Yacht Show and, according to Cooney, one of the most popular areas on board so far has been the bridge deck. “When the doors are fully retracted, the exterior and interior areas become one beautiful space,” he says. With bleached wenge floors, a hideaway television and large, comfortable sofas in neutral greys, this is a room designed for cocktail hour relaxing. The room also features the unique sushi table where the chef prepares fresh food in front of the guests. Everything on board is geared towards healthy living, and although a familiar concept today, four years ago when the boat was in build it was not so widespread, and is indicative of the prescient vision the owners had for their yacht.

While Grace E is certainly modern in her aesthetics and amenities, the real coup is reserved for below decks. “The owners are very conscious about their impact on the environment,” says Veerle. “They wanted to be able to do full circumnavigations in hot and cold



Top left: The sushi bar where the chef prepares oriental-inspired meals and canapes for the guests.
Above left: Access around the exterior of Grace E is easy and uncluttered.
Left: A hair and mani/pedi salon on the bridge deck is a very popular spot.
Above: The bridge deck plays host to the main exterior dining table, as well as a sofa bench with built-in tray tables.
Right: A large sofa and clean, modern lines on the bridge deck for informal relaxing and entertaining.



Little touches by designer Rémi Tessier add to the GRAVITAS of the SURROUNDINGS



Above: The master cabin features artwork specially chosen by the owners.
Left: The colour scheme of calming neutral whites, creams and blues throughout the yacht matches the exterior lines.
Right: The Rémi Tessier interior is functional as well as aesthetically pleasing.
Far right: The owner's bathroom, with his'n'hers showers and sinks, separated by a solid limestone bath.
Above right: A snug study space in the owner's suite has large windows.
Top right: A sofa and armchair reflect the colours in the artworks throughout and make the most of the bright open space.



climates, but also wanted a green yacht. The hull was tested through and through to provide the least resistance and most fuel efficiency." *Grace E's* propulsion is provided by diesel-electric azipods, rather than a traditional shaft-driven engine, on the owner's request. "This is very novel," says Veerle. "She's the smallest yacht in the world with these kind of azipods, and they make it possible to go anywhere. They also installed the dynamic positioning system, because if you want to go to an area with beautiful reefs, you don't want to be part of the destruction of those reefs. They have anchors, of course, for safety reasons, but they can choose not to use them." The system uses the azipods, which can swivel 360°, and when a GPS location is logged into the system the boat can be kept on that same position in up to 35 knots of breeze. The propulsion system has the benefit of being exceptionally smooth and quiet. During her sea trials, one passenger asked when they would be leaving harbour, not realising they were already doing 14 knots. "We started playing around after that!" says Veerle. "We filled a couple of glasses on every deck, right to the top, to see when they would spill. They didn't! And Philippe [Briand] is very proud of that, and I think he deserves recognition for it, because he really did a superb job on the stability of the yacht. One weekend, he said 'there are 6cm that just don't work'. And after eight hours he had found what he needed, but I remember him talking about 6cm on a boat that big. We sometimes make fun of him, but it's his strength."

Cooney describes the yacht as "spectacular, and relaxing but luxurious", and much of the feel of the yacht is down to Rémi Tessier's vision to bridge the interior and exterior spaces in a contemporary way. When asked what springs to mind when he thinks of

Everything on board is geared towards HEALTHY LIVING, in a prescient move by the owners



Grace E Tessier says "peace, elegance and modernity", and it is obvious why. The sense of space is immediately apparent, with open-plan salons and clever use of deck space. Little touches add to the gravitas of the design, such as drinks tables built into the aft sofas and the use of polished stainless steel on the door frames, blurring the boundaries between interior and exterior. "One of my favourite parts of the design process was building the relationship with the clients," says Tessier. "The owners gave us the responsibility to create an exclusive design world for them, and were very involved in the sourcing of the contemporary art collection to fit perfectly with the rest of the design."

Establishing a connection with the sea was an important philosophy behind the design for the owners, and, in the master cabin, pale blue and aqua accents amongst creams and neutrals provide a calming ambiance, as well as complementing the yacht's exterior lines. A full-width bathroom features separate his'n'hers showers and sinks, separated by a huge solid limestone bath. Two dressing rooms and a study complete the suite.

Aft of the master cabin are two en-suite guest cabins, which also benefit from the natural light afforded by the huge windows. Below are the remaining four cabins, two twins and two doubles, which can be turned into two suites of a double and twin by a joining door, making it ideal for families with children. In the main salon, the dining table offers flexible eating for up to 16. Leather carpets, onyx, polished stainless steel and palladium leaf on the ceilings all add to the contemporary feel on board, as well as custom backlit coffee tables.

On the aft deck is a cocktail bar and relaxed outdoor seating area, as well as the exercise pool and deckchairs. The area is slightly sunken into the deck,



Above: The aft deck dining area is slightly sunken to give privacy.
Top left: The pool on the aft deck holds eight and a half tones of water.
Above left: Wraparound decks open up the spaces on board the yacht.
Far left: A cocktail bar on the aft deck doubles as a breakfast bar.
Left: The dining table in the main salon accommodates a range of dining options, such as dining for 16 as seen, or two smaller tables by removing the leaves.
Right: The main salon is in the calming shades of blues and neutrals that Rémi Tessier employed throughout the yacht.





Above: A fold-out terrace on the starboard side gives direct sea access for the many toys and tenders.
Far left: A custom 9.5m Cockwells tender and a 7m YachtWerft Meyer are two of *Grace E*'s tenders.
Left: *Grace E*'s dynamic positioning system allows her to visit protected marine areas without deploying an anchor.
Top right: The guest cabins make the most of the large windows with furnishings in light and neutral colours.
Above right: A custom lift links all the guest areas, from the cabins below to the wellness deck above.
Right: Open-plan spaces and use of mirrors and polished stainless steel is a theme throughout.



creating privacy and drawing you closer to the sea. Of the crew quarters, Cooney says: "The area is exceptional and came about from direct involvement with the owners." Choices for downtime include a 70 square metre lounge and a private crew-only gym. *Grace E* also has a lift, which sits in the centre of the yacht, and that links all the decks. The shimmering gold colour as you approach is actually gold thread laminated between two sheets of glass. "The idea is that it lets light through, so you're not obscuring the light in the lobbies and communal areas, and you can also see through it when you're inside," says Cooney.

Grace E is equipped with an Oculus entertainment system, allowing guests to track their position on their televisions and zoom in and out on their locations, as well as watching real-time footage of the yacht under way from various cameras. Guest itineraries, menus and safety information also feature. *Grace E* will now spend the summer months cruising Norway, discovering new horizons, and will be available for charter through Burgess.

Grace E was brought to life by a wide range of people, from her designers and builders to her owners who had a vision right from the start, and she certainly deserves all her recent awards and accolades. She is not just visually stunning; the effort to include her eco-friendly systems certainly has to be applauded, and anything that looks simple, is almost certainly not. Perhaps her journey so far is best summed up by Philippe Briand himself on his recent visit to her in the Caribbean: "When I saw *Grace E* in Gustavia Harbour, the sun setting behind her, I thought of something Charles Baudelaire once said: 'Everything that is beautiful and noble is the product of reason and calculation.' I felt it was a job well done." **SYW**

THE SPECS *Grace E*

Length overall 73.00m (240ft 0in) Beam 13.20m (43ft 0in) Draught 4.00m (13ft 12in) Displacement 1,680 tonnes (full) Propulsion Twin 1.6 MW ABB Azipod CO0980S Generators Four Caterpillar C32 876kW (1174.7hp); Twin Caterpillar C18 492kW (659.8hp) Top speed 17.5 knots Cruising speed 14.0 knots Range @ 12 knots 7,500 nautical miles	Construction Steel/aluminium Naval architecturer Philippe Briand Exterior Vitruvius Yachts Interior Rémi Tessier Berths Guests: 14. Crew: 22 Tenders 9.5m Cockwells, 7.2m Yachtwerft Meyer, 5m Yachtwerft Meyer, 3.3m Avon SportJet Classification ✱100 A1, SSC, Yacht, Mono, G6, DP ✱ LMC UMS DP (AM)	BUILDER Picchiotti/Perini Navi www.perinnavi.it CHARTER Burgess, Monaco. Tel: +377. 97 97 81 21 www.burgessyachts.com Charter rates: high season: €640,000pw low season: €595,000pw
--	--	--

JACUZZI: Aft on the wellness deck and surrounded by sunpads.

WELLNESS DECK: Includes a gym, sauna, hydrotherapy bath and massage parlour.

SUNPADS: Built to follow the shape of the yacht, and with built-in tables.

ELEVATOR: Takes guests from their accommodation below right up to the wellness deck.

SUSHI TABLE: One of the many relaxed dining options on board.

BRIDGE: Contains state-of-the-art systems that are also friendlier to the environment.

SALON: The tables can be arranged into many flexible options for all occasions.

MASTER CABIN: Full-beam, with two dressing rooms, a study and his'n'hers bathroom.

GARAGE: Containing a plethora of water toys and tenders.

CREW MESS: On the lower deck and near the crew cabins is a private gym and lounge.

BOW: An almost sheer bow gives the yacht a distinctly Vitruvius look.

TOP DECK: Features an observation room for under way viewing.

SUNPADS: Designed for the yacht and able to swivel 360° to catch the sun's rays.

HULL SHAPE: Philippe Briand spent many months optimising the hull shape.

SUNDECK: Plenty of relaxing and entertaining options, including a bar.

EXTERIOR SPACES: Lots of outdoor space makes *Grace E* feel at one with the elements.

STYLING: The exterior spaces, also by Rémi Tessier, complement the interior.

ECO-FRIENDLY: The owners specifically requested as green a yacht as possible.