

[BESPOKE]

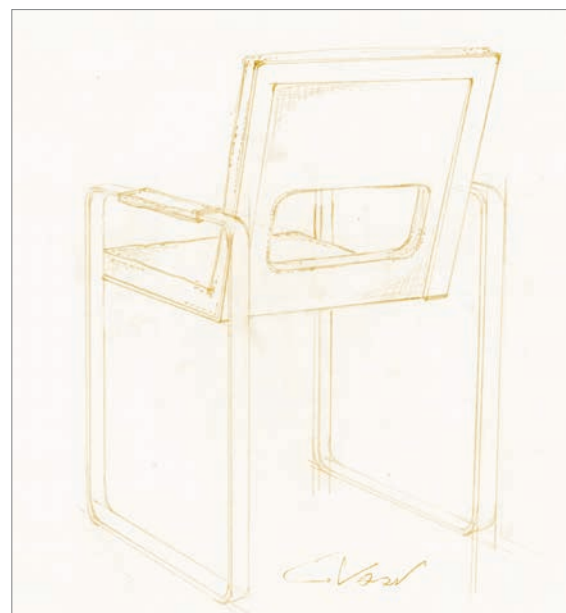
Unique elegance

Fulvia Tissi's great passion is for bespoke projects. Her enthusiasm for her work is boundlessly contagious and brilliantly reflected in the style of her custom collection Vaar for luxury yachts

by Marta Bernasconi

Explore, create, navigate. Fulvia Tissi's career path has been driven by a sense of keen curiosity and discovery. It's no coincidence that she crossed paths with Carl Varr, a hugely experienced luxury yacht captain, a meeting that produced her latest collaborative effort: Varr, a specialist furnishing and living solutions brands for superyachts of which Tissi is art and creative director. The brand takes its inspiration from the Modernist movement of the 1920s and 30s (simple, cool lines executed with very precise materials). Varr's style is still quite eclectic, marrying functionality, simplicity, while extreme elegance is the focal point. The secret to reconciling these three factors starts, according to Tissi, with the materials themselves. "My choices in that regard are influenced by a strong connection with tradition but also broaden out into new, much more innovative possibilities. I started with teak but then it became difficult to find the high quality stuff. So I currently use a lot of mahogany. It's very satisfying and excellent for a variety of finishes. Oiled mahogany, for instance, is stunning both solid and as a veneer on curved surfaces. I like combining metals with wood too, such as brushed steel and untreated oak. I have a real weakness for titanium which weighs around 40 per cent less than

Fulvia Tissi starts each new commission by listening to her client's needs: the new trend is for unusual combinations such as untreated oak and brushed steel furnishings or beautifully stitched leather (see left), which demand specialist craftsmanship. Right, sketches for outdoor furnishings





The Varr collection is to be found on some of the world's most fascinating megayachts. The pieces are captivatingly designed, effortlessly enhancing the spaces aboard these floating villas. On these pages, some examples of the Vaar furniture: the Poppey chairs aboard Prima (above), the Bellini chairs aboard Polaris 181 (below), the Burano sunbed aboard Numptia (opposite page, top) and the seating in the Como cockpit

metal. It's tough, corrosion-resistant and antimagnetic. It likes metallic paint but it can also be left natural."

There is a growing trend for untreated materials among owners, and also unusual combinations. "Of late I have noticed that certain unusual trends are particularly popular: untreated oak and brushed steel."

But bespoke is second nature to Varr: "Custom work is one of our strengths and really a prerequisite of anything of value and so a large part of what we do."

Speaking of the challenges posed by bespoke work, Tissi simply says: "The greater the effort, the greater the satisfaction!"

An attitude that will serve her well on her latest project, an 80-metre for an emerging yard.

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