



Social Scene

Outer Reef uniquely blends gathering places and private spaces.

Before the owner of Outer Reef Yachts' new 720 Deluxe bridge inked the build contract, he sought feedback from current owners and was immediately impressed. He discovered the people in this hearty group use their boats to the fullest, cruise worldwide and gather annually at a rendezvous to share experiences. He even climbed aboard one for a sea trial and was invited by the owner to dock the vessel, normally a nerve-wracking task.

"I spun the boat around and it was just gorgeous, no problems and easy to dock," said the owner during an April interview aboard *Creative Edge*, a 72-footer that runs on a semi-displacement hull and offers an enclosed pilothouse and two wing stations for extraordinary navigation options. "That sold the boat. I felt that if I could maneuver like this the first time, then this is really good. Speaking to current owners helped me get the straight story on Outer Reef, and I liked what I learned."

Once started, the project took 15 months to complete and delivery was in April. Built exclusively at the Tania Yacht

Company in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Outer Reef offers a series of semi-custom hulls from 56 to 115 feet and provides a wide range of customization. All Outer Reef vessels are fully rigged with electronics, A/V, and décor right down to the blinds and carpet at the factory and are delivered practically turnkey to any of Outer Reef's 14 locations worldwide. General Manager Karl Lin and lead engineer Chaucer Chen sea trial each boat from Tania's prime location on Kaohsiung Harbor with direct access to the ocean. When the boat is delivered to the client, it has already undergone extensive sea trial testing, which reduces the final commission time to an average of just two weeks. This fourth-generation boatbuilding company employs 130 people and has built boats exclusively for Outer Reef Yachts since 2001 when Jeff Druke founded the company.

"The owner is detail-oriented and we probably exchanged 2,500 emails throughout the process," said Druke, Outer Reef's

By **DOUG THOMPSON**



Above: The island galley and massive country kitchen present a lovely setting for relaxed dining and entertaining. Right: A plush skylounge helm station includes a corner office you could run a business from.

president and CEO, who is personally involved in every sale and design, and only sells his boats direct throughout Outer Reef's worldwide in-house distribution network. "This project was driven by the owner who has a big family and wanted a bigger boat to expand his cruising range."

One of the owner's main goals was to generate a big boat feel that also offers privacy in separate conversation areas. "What we love is that the boat has six distinct social areas," the owner explained. "There's a three-person lounge on the bow, then the aft deck, large saloon with couch and flat-screen TV, a massive "country kitchen," and skylounge. The country kitchen is the most popular place on the boat, with a big island for prep and a nice lounge for relaxing. You can also open pocket doors from this country kitchen to the saloon to open everything up.

"When you are spending a week with a group of people, it's nice to have these private spaces," continued the owner, who plans to spend about three months a year with his wife aboard *Creative Edge*, mostly in The Bahamas, and have friends or their four adult children join them on the boat. "If you want to get a cup of coffee and read a book by yourself, there are plenty of places for that."



The owner also created his own hideaway in the skylounge, accessed by a port staircase from the country kitchen. The skylounge helm station features three large multi-function display screens, an Outer Reef custom steering wheel and two Stidd helm chairs. In the starboard aft corner of the skylounge is the owner's "corner office," featuring a large wooden desk with a 27-inch screen Mac computer. It's a completely private area for the owner, who runs his own business and can remain in contact online and on the phone via KVH satellite systems.

World-renowned superyacht designer Ken Freivokh did the interior interpretation, which the owner describes as having "the flair of a European yacht but the saltiness of a sailboat. All the flooring and paneling is done in teak with wenge trim. There's also a bit of holly in some of the table details, and it's exactly what we wanted.

"My wife and I love the areas we are going to be in the most," the owner continued, "and those are the master stateroom, the country kitchen and



my office. We woke up in a king-size bed in the master, and I don't need anything bigger than that. We also have a walk-in closet and two other closets. We made the guest staterooms more limited, because guests will come and go."

The VIP stateroom is all the way forward and features a queen berth, ensuite head, shower and skylight. Aft to starboard is a guest stateroom with a double berth and a Pullman, and ensuite head. The remaining berths are all the way aft of the engine room, and feature a queen berth with head to port, and twin berths to starboard. The queen berth will serve as the crew/captain's quarters, because it has access to the engine room, which is located amidships, aft of the master. The twin berth is a fourth guest cabin, and has access to a staircase into the saloon, and the staircase can be closed off to the crew quarters. Depending on sleeping arrangements and the number of crew,

SPECIFICATIONS

LOA: 71' 8"

Beam: 18' 6"

Draft: 5' 3"

Displacement: 56 tons

Power: 2x Caterpillar C-9 diesel

Fuel/Water Capacity: 2,350/400 U.S. gals.

Cruising/Top Speed: 8/15.5 knots

Range @ cruising speed: 2300 nm @ 8.5 knots

Price: Upon request

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The well-appointed master stateroom features the latest in living quarters amenities and is graced by a king-size bed (opposite), elegant ensuite head, generous closets, and beautiful wood joinery.

the boat can comfortably sleep 11 guests and 13 with the convertible full berth in the skylounge.

The owner plans to operate the boat himself once he is completely comfortable with the operations and systems, and will likely hire a captain or mate for any long crossings. Because he plans to do a lot of cruising in international

waters, the outstanding fuel economy achieved by the twin Caterpillar C-9 Acerts (503 bhp) diesel engines with ZF transmissions offer many advantages.

"Even though the 720 has a semi-displacement hull design and can run to 15.5 knots, it does best in displacement mode at 9 to 11 knots," Druke said of *Creative Edge*, which



weighs 56 tons and is built out of FRP (fiberglass reinforced plastic). "The boat carries 2,350 gallons and at 8.5 knots gets about 1 mile per gallon. If you run the boat at 7 knots the range is around 3,400 miles. It can go transatlantic."

"You can do long runs very economically," the owner said. "It's not just the money for fuel, but the pain of constantly refueling the boat. At seven knots you have great range and you don't have to worry about the quality of the fuel in

foreign ports. In our case we wanted to feel safe in seas of any size and have the long range and comforts of home. We have TRAC Zero Speed stabilizers, and they're nice to have if there is a chop when we drop the hook."

Another unique design aspect on *Creative Edge* is dual control stations to port and starboard of the skylounge. "I like driving boats outside in the fresh air, and these bridge wings are terrific," the owner said. "I can step out and have full control



The spacious saloon is one of many great open social areas on the 720. Opposite: The forward VIP offers a queen berth with room to breathe.

from port or starboard with fantastic sight lines for dodging lobster pots or any other obstacles. Of course, in Florida in the summer it is fun running outside for about 20 minutes, and then you might as well go inside where it's cooler."

Moving into a 72-foot boat was a big jump for the owner, who previously owned a 43-foot Tiara equipped with shore power, a

generator and an AC system, so now it's a matter of learning how to monitor additional systems such as the FCI watermaker. "I will get there, and I'm thoroughly enjoying the experience," said the owner. "Regarding the name of the boat, *Creative Edge*, there are a lot of sources of edge in life. In our case, our family focuses on creativity in everything we do. So that is our motto." 🐾