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# Design Special



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# TANKOA YACHTS

THE **ONE** YACHT & DESIGN



▶ SCAN ME



**Tankoa Yachts presents T450, designed by Giorgio M. Cassetta.  
On board, the management of spaces and balanced volumes  
work harmoniously with the combination of furnishings,  
complements and light to create an aesthetic, functional concept  
with a powerful impact**

by Marta Gasparini



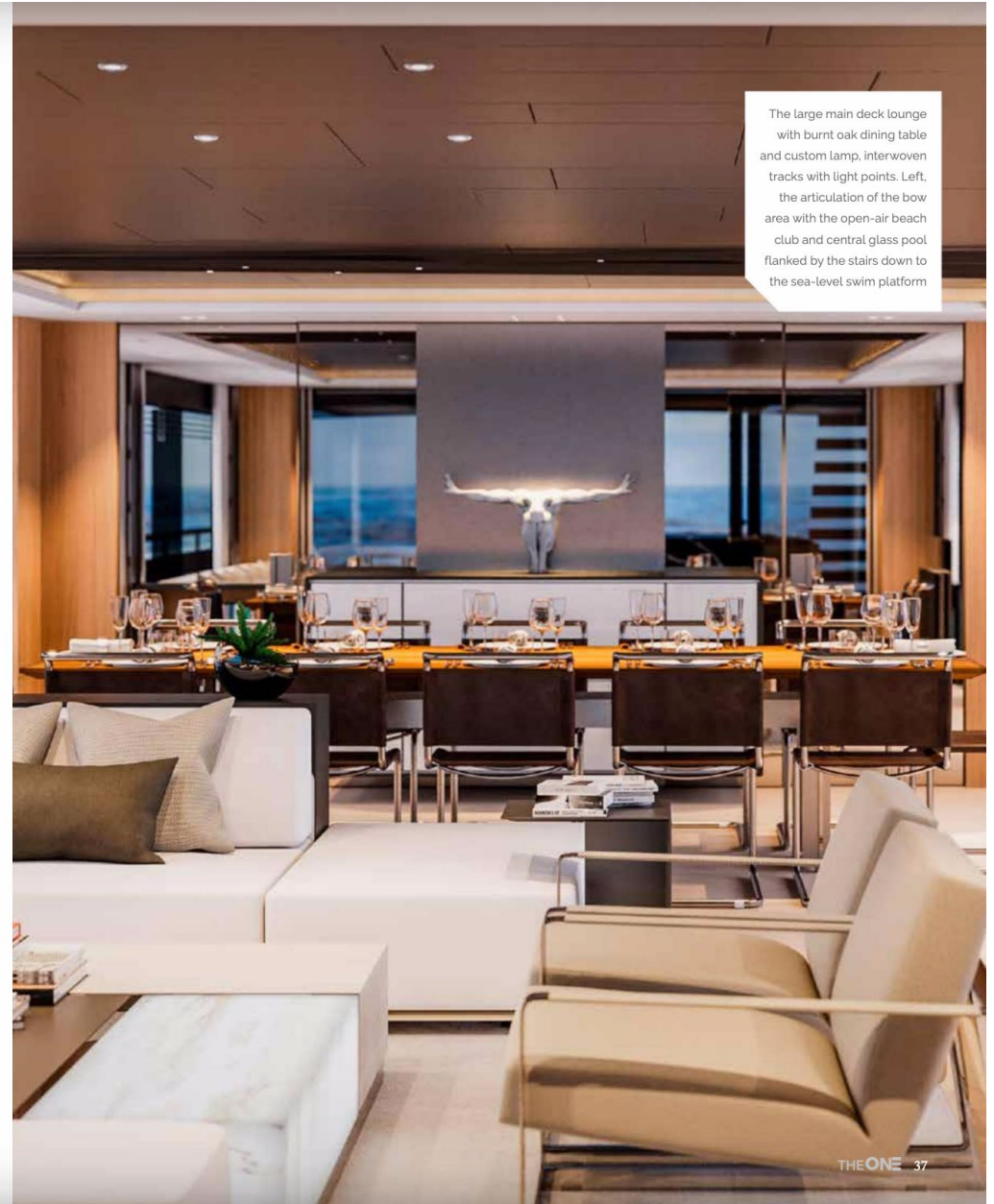
**T**ankoa, the Italian brand that describes itself a boutique yard, is working on the new T450, the first model below 50 metres by the Ligurian brand, which builds megayachts up to 72 metres in length. Like its bigger sisters, the Tankoa will be a floating villa. Constructed in steel and aluminium, it will feature the finest in space, comfort, technology and luxury, all made to measure for the owner. The idea is the brainchild of Giorgio M. Cassetta, who has a studio in Rome and a reputation as naval designer who is responsible for a large number of yachts over 50 metres. For the Tankoa T450 he has aimed for maximum correspondence between aesthetics and functionality, creating a yacht with great personality and immense versatility (the yacht is on spec). In terms of space the exteriors and interiors give the impression of a much larger yacht, comparable to a luxurious seaborne residence. Cassetta's stylistic hallmarks are clean lines, an absence of superfluous decoration and above all the ability to give his creations an unconventional yet timeless look that retains a typical maritime stamp. He achieves this by using curves that are so slight as to be almost imperceptible yet exert a powerful effect.

"For owners, it means the opportunity to intervene whenever they please on a layout with a number of solutions we've already developed", says Cassetta, "and involves deciding the number of cabins, from four to seven, which deck they are on, the location of the kitchen and the level of personalisation applied to the décor. Just as would happen with a house". And during the pandemic, the yacht becomes "A safe haven to where owners can take shelter along with their loved ones". We'll start with the exterior design, highlighting the daring vertical

architecture of the superstructure whose panoramic windows evoke a penthouse feel and dialogues with the bright interiors that in Cassetta's words develop "around the yacht's structural design but are handled in different materials to create a variety of perceptions and styles that interface constantly with the outdoor areas". Take, for example, the masterful use of full-height vertical elements in the main deck lounge, clad in polished and satin-finish stainless steel, recalling the yacht's pierced supporting structures. The overall effect is that of an industrial loft with exceptional appeal, enhanced by a handful of furniture pieces, very well thought-out in terms of proportions and lent warmth by earth colours and woods – light brushed oak, dark ash and white eucalyptus, all with low gloss and brushed to bring out the colours and texture. Cassetta describes these contrasting elements as "subtle" touches "whose purpose is to enhance rather than distract. Like the unit behind the dining table, a furnishing accessory with six large drawers finished with slim, dark frames, not to offset the bulk but to highlight it with what's almost a pencil line".

The general result is a refined rigour with a rhythmical series of geometries that dialogue perfectly with objects from the finest Italian design brands, with furnishings and sofas from Poltrona Frau, Poliform and Flexform and fabrics by Mariaflora that help "to create calm spaces that seek not to show aggression towards guests, but rather invite them to sit and remain".

The T450 hosts twelve guests in six cabins – the full-beam owner's suite and a VIP cabin on the forward main deck and four cabins on the lower deck. The crew quarters are towards the stern and the skipper's cabin is on the bridge deck. [www.tankoa.it](http://www.tankoa.it)

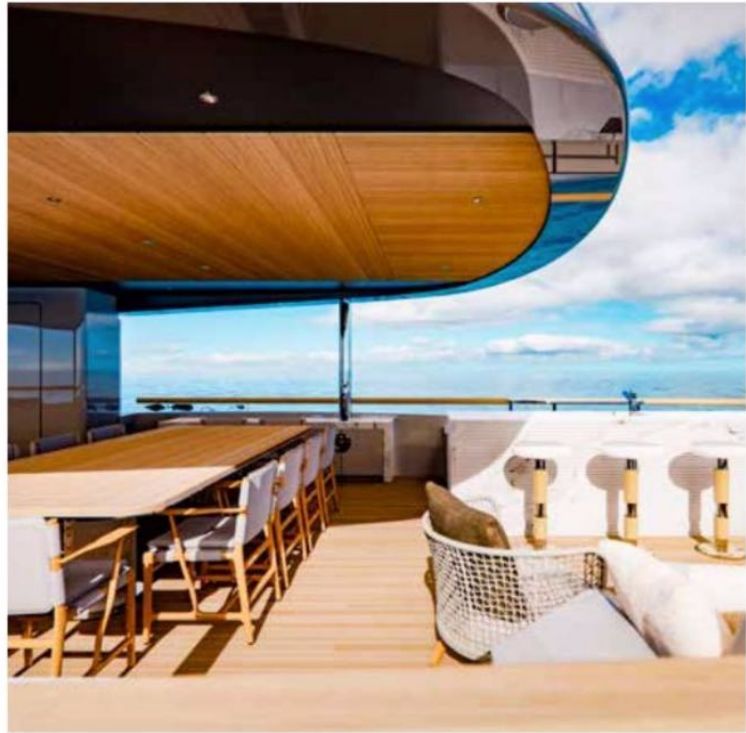


The large main deck lounge with burnt oak dining table and custom lamp, interwoven tracks with light points. Left, the articulation of the bow area with the open-air beach club and central glass pool flanked by the stairs down to the sea-level swim platform





Above, the open-air upper deck lounge is like a large terrace with elegant furnishings with a strong maritime appeal and few frills. Right, the sundeck with sunpad, sheltered dining area, a bar forward with sofas and a dayhead



## 5 questions to Vincenzo Poerio CEO Tankoa Yachts

**Tankoa Yachts is a young company but it's well-established in high-end yachting. How is it changing since you are at the helm?** I joined Tankoa in February 2020. Despite the restrictions the pandemic has imposed I've tried to improve many aspects of corporate life. I've introduced new production processes and made investments in software to make the work more fluid and shorten delivery times. We've strengthened the sales team and started work with new designers to offer a wider range of products. In 2020 we presented the Tankoa 45 metre designed by Giorgio Cassetta and this year we're going to launch other projects by new architects. The work we're doing is intended to provide continuity to the contracts undertaken and to help Tankoa become a benchmark company in the superyacht world.

**What are the brand's strengths, and are you considering expanding the yard?** At Tankoa I've found a very good team made up of dynamic people with a strong passion for yachting. It's clear that to achieve the goals we've set we have to increase our production capacity, and that's why we're evaluating some opportunities to buy out yards or industrial premises.

**Tankoa specialises in the construction of yachts of 50 metres and above, but now you're building your first 45-metre model.**

**What led to this decision?** So far we've constructed five 50-metre yachts, one 72-metre and one 69-metre. The entire range is in the over 50 metre bracket. We were convinced that yachts between 40 and 50 metres constituted a large slice of the market, so we decided to make a 45-metre, the T450. We're in talks with some potential clients in the hope of closing the deal shortly.

**T450 is designed by Giorgio Cassetta, a designer you know well as the man behind many Benetti yachts. Can you tell us about this collaboration?** I met Giorgio when he was 29, and at Benetti we immediately saw his potential. Now, after designing a number of models, he has consolidated his style. I regard him as a young Italian destined to make a mark in our industry.

**In this pandemic what are the trends that can be seen developing in terms of size and style?** The superyacht market has remained very active and the latest yacht industry figures confirm this trend. Yachts between 40 and 50 metres below 500 gt form the largest and most rewarding market segment. There's also significant growth in demand for models around 60 metres long, between 800 and 1,000 gt. The stylistic trend is for yachts with ever-larger window areas to create spectacular visuals and with more spacious beach areas to bring owners and guests closer to the sea and enable them to enjoy their "private island".

