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# Design to Delivery

## The beginning of Project Black Shark



BY CHARL VAN ROOY

For many, the inner workings of a world-class superyacht shipyard will forever be a mystery. These boutique builders are behind some of the most advanced ships afloat today, and their construction methods and the owners' exact wishes will remain a closely guarded secret until the end of time. Every now and then, however, an opportunity arises in the superyacht business, when the veil of secrecy is lifted ever so slightly for the rest of us to catch a glimpse into the world that is custom superyacht construction.

One such opportunity has recently come to life as an all-star team has joined forces in Northern Germany to start work on a new superyacht project, unlike anything this industry has seen before. Not in terms of style or design or complexity, although these elements are proving to be just as unique, but more the fact that now, for the first time, the construction of a Northern-European superyacht project can be followed from start to finish. As one of the most secretive and exclusive superyacht builders in the world, the doors of the famous Nobiskrug shipyard (the same yard behind the 92-metre Tatoosh and 142.8-metre Sailing Yacht A) have been opened for the first time, where the foundations of one of its most exciting new build projects to date - the 77-metre Black Shark - have been laid.

As Managing Director at Nobiskrug, Holger Khal has been involved in the project from the very beginning and understands very well what makes this new-build so special from those before it. "The build process is often cloaked in darkness and secrecy, so on this occasion, we are enormously happy to be able to share our innovations and processes. With two remarkable teams of designers and an experienced superyacht management company by our side, we have decided to open our doors and give exclusive behind-the-scenes access, and we are truly excited to welcome in the world to realise this bespoke project with us."

### BEHIND THE NAME

What makes this project even more special is not only the unique scope of this operation, but the calibre of the team working behind the scenes. Joining the esteemed German shipyard is the Monaco-based brokerage firm and new-build specialists, Imperial. No stranger to the inner workings of the yard, the pair worked together on the construction and delivery of the 73.5-metre Flying Fox (now Dytan) in 2012 and have been yearning to join forces again ever since.

In the design corner, heavyweights Winch Design and Sinot Yacht Architecture & Design were carefully selected by the



The keel laying of the new project took place in February

NOBISKRUG (2)

client to cover the exterior and interior design of the project respectively. For the entire project team, all of whom are known for having worked on some serious top-secret custom projects, Black Shark presents a rare opportunity and, for the first time, some of the world's best designers will be able to fully open up about their processes.

Representing Imperial and the owner on the ground is Project Manager Nick Flashman, a man tasked with keeping the project on track, commanding oversight of each department. "The interactions and discussions between the owner, the designers, the yard and the Imperial on-site team are key to the success of this new-build project. As Project Manager, it is my responsibility to ensure that the whole Black Shark project goes well, at all levels."

### A LOOK INSIDE

Black Shark is a high-volume, three-decked motor yacht. According to her designer, keeping the number of decks to a

minimum is what will give Black Shark an imposing presence and, well, a shark-like attitude. "Having only one level above the main deck allowed us to raise the hull, so we have quite a lot of volume in this part of the boat which is disguised by the long sheer line that runs from bow to stern. Tonnage and volume-wise, she will be bigger than most 77-metre yachts. She will also definitely have a main deck that is much higher than other yachts of her size," explains Winch.

As her name suggests, the 77-metre yacht takes inspiration from the king of the ocean. The owner's enthusiasm for this particular style stems from what the animal represents: pureness, ferociousness and strength. According to Sander Sinot, this majestic creature not only served as inspiration for her sleek exterior design but for much of the interior too. "It's a very sophisticated, contemporary and light interior designed in contrast to the yacht's dark exterior with much of it based around the Black Shark theme. We analysed the texture of a shark's skin, for example, and enlarged this incredible pattern



A special coin is placed underneath the first section of steel which is to be retrieved at the end of construction and presented to the owner as a symbol of good luck.

**"They are not only beautiful creations cruising around the world, or exclusive toys for billionaires as some people like to describe them. Yachts are very long, detailed and passionate works."** -NICK FLASHMAN

from it. For the texture, we used a special marble floor which has a ripple effect to it, much like you would see when underwater."

At the time of the keel laying in February this year, the project teams were discussing paint schemes: a matt black hull to mimic the texture of actual shark skin and sporty, metallic superstructure colour while the mast is designed to look like a shark fin. "There were about 20 different designs of the mast fin," Winch recalls, "but, together with elements such as the gills that are found on each side of the yacht, we managed to personalise it enough to blend in well with the overall style together."

### COMING UP

Though the Black Shark project is allowing unprecedented

access and coverage of this exciting new vessel, very little tangible information has been leaked thus far. The Nobiskrug and Imperial team, it seems, is leaving much to the imagination. "If I tell you everything now, then the project will not be interesting!" Imperial CEO, Evgeniy Kochman, laughs. "Over the next few months, we will continue to reveal more information and details about the project, sharing our processes along the way. For now, all we can say is that Black Shark will be a stunning yacht with a particularly special interior - and definitely one to watch out for."

One thing that all parties are making clear is that Black Shark will have the 'wow' factor, which Winch refers to as the 'Beach Appeal'. The Beach Appeal where, as an owner, you can immediately identify your vessel when standing on the beach overlooking a crowded bay filled with yachts. Not only during daytime with her imposing presence, but also when the sun has set and her night signature takes over. The highly developed lighting scheme will be as mesmerising as observing a real shark in its habitat. "It is becoming increasingly more important to clients to have their yachts stand out at night," adds Winch.

The designers continue to divulge a few critical aspects of the design without giving too much away, describing a seven-cabin arrangement with a large VIP suite on the upper deck with its own balcony and a full-beam master stateroom that will host Black Shark's 12 guests in absolute comfort and style.

Another highlight on board will be the beach club at the stern, designed with a relaxed feeling in mind just as you would experience on an actual beach, explains Winch. "As the main deck is higher than usual, so too has the lower deck been raised, which in turn means that the beach club is flush with the swimming platform, so you don't get the feeling you are entering a basement each time you walk into the beach club." "It's quite spacious," adds Sinot. "It's not too formal so you can still sit and relax here when your shorts are wet for example and really use it as a beach."

Attending the private keel laying ceremony at the Nobiskrug yard in February this year, it was impossible not to sense the growing excitement amongst the project team about what has been put into motion within Nobiskrug's sheds in Kiel. Although the rate at which new details will be released about this project will keep us on the edge of our seats, it's safe to say that the final result will be worth the wait.

For more information on Nobiskrug visit [www.nobiskrug.com](http://www.nobiskrug.com) or email [yachts@nobiskrug.com](mailto:yachts@nobiskrug.com)

For more information on Imperial visit [www.imperial-yachts.com](http://www.imperial-yachts.com) or email [monaco@imperial-yachts.com](mailto:monaco@imperial-yachts.com)

## MEET THE TEAM



NOBISKRUG/IMPERIAL  
HOLGER KAHL,  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

It was the fall of 2017 when we were called by Evgeniy [Imperial CEO], who claimed that there was a very serious client who was looking to build a yacht and that we had to get on a plane immediately. 'Be here tomorrow and have everything prepared,' was the request. These are the type of challenges Nobiskrug likes. It takes a visionary owner to provide the trust and confidence to create this beautiful 77-metre yacht, which may well be the next trend-setter in yachting.



IMPERIAL  
EVGENIY KOCHMAN, CEO

Project Black Shark is a significant milestone for Imperial on several aspects. This is the very first Imperial vessel designed in close collaboration with Winch Design and Sinot Yacht Architecture & Design, and the very first publicised superyacht project from keel laying to delivery. With Project Black Shark, together with Nobiskrug, we want to give a clearer understanding of our industry and how these exclusive creations are coming to life and the people behind it. We will not only reveal to the world an exciting 77-metre superyacht, but a vision from the inside like it was never done before.



NOBISKRUG/IMPERIAL  
NICK FLASHMAN,  
PROJECT MANAGER

I believe people need to be more educated about superyachts. They are not only beautiful creations cruising around the world, or exclusive toys for billionaires as some people like to describe them. Yachts are very long, detailed and passionate works. They give life to a vision, to a dream. We are proud to be involved in opening up this work to the rest of the world, helping to provide a better comprehension of the superyacht industry.



NOBISKRUG/IMPERIAL  
RAINER STOBRAWA,  
PROJECT MANAGER

All custom projects bring their own risks, but we pride ourselves on our ability to meticulously plan and undertake risky projects that other yards often do not want to touch. We are confident in our ability to deliver this project problem-free and without any difficulty.



WINCH DESIGN  
ANDREW WINCH, FOUNDER AND  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Good projects such as this one are all about partnerships. Working with Imperial for the first time, I witnessed how the experience that the company brings from building so many yachts helps to develop a client's dreams. A good broker, doing a good job, helps our industry. That's what makes the client's dreams come true. Black Shark will undoubtedly be an eye-catching yacht.



SINOT YACHT DESIGN  
SANDER SINOT, DIRECTOR

The owner appreciates having two major design companies such as ourselves and Winch Design work on this project and sees the entire operation as an all-star team. Working with Imperial has been a very thorough process, but also very pleasant. Just like Imperial, we too are very organised, and unlike other artistic companies, we have no problem dealing with these types of procedures. This is our first project together with Nobiskrug, and we have found them to be just as flexible as us. The process has flowed perfectly. ♦