

# THE SUPERYACHT & AVIATION EDIT VOLUME 6

design et al



## THE DESIGNERS CHANGING THE YACHTING INDUSTRY

Whether we are talking Superyachts, Megayachts or Gigayachts, technology is advancing and design companies are making great strides to incorporate it into their work, without compromising their creativity and individuality. The question of how artificial intelligence is changing our working lives, and how it will re-shape them in the future, is currently an infinite one. We spoke to twelve of the world's leading design companies in this sector, about their work, their design philosophies and outlook, their current projects, those in the pipeline and, of course, the effects of artificial intelligence on their work and the yacht industry in general terms.





# Mauro Micheli and Sergio Beretta, Founders of Officina Italiana Design



**“The industry is shifting from yachts as status symbols to intimate spaces for family enjoyment. Owners increasingly value a seamless blend of luxury and functionality—boats designed as second homes rather than showcases.”**

## **Can you tell us about your background in design?**

Mauro Micheli is the Chief Designer at Officina Italiana Design, while I, Sergio Beretta, serve as CEO. Our backgrounds complement each other—Mauro’s expertise lies in design, while mine is in business and administration. Mauro initially aspired to be an artist and studied fine art, but a turning point came when Riva launched a contest seeking a designer. Out of 200 applicants, Mauro won, discovering his natural talent for yacht design in the process. Over the next decade, he became increasingly involved in shaping the brand’s aesthetic. In 1994, we combined our strengths—Mauro in design and myself in business—to establish Officina Italiana Design. That marked the beginning of our journey, and 30 years later, we remain the exclusive designers for Riva’s entire yacht production.

## **What projects are you currently working on?**

We are working on several exciting projects. One of the most notable is Riva’s largest-ever superyacht, a 70-meter vessel sold last year. We are responsible for the exterior design of this milestone project. Additionally, we designed a 54-meter superyacht, which will launch this August. Three units have already been sold, and negotiations are underway for a fourth—an indication of the strong demand for this model even before it hits the water.

Riva is unique in that it produces yachts ranging from 27 feet to 210 feet. Our work spans both the series production and the bespoke superyacht division. While we occasionally introduce minor refinements to existing models, our philosophy prioritises timeless design over fleeting trends. Our goal is to make Riva yachts enduringly elegant, incorporating only subtle updates that enhance their contemporary appeal without altering their signature aesthetic.

## **What inspires and drives your design work?**

Art is our primary source of inspiration—both contemporary and classical. Mauro and I are avid collectors of contemporary art, but we also appreciate the artistic mastery of the past. We encourage our team to seek inspiration beyond the nautical industry, whether through art, architecture, or cultural exploration. Travel plays a significant role in broadening our perspective, particularly in interior design, where understanding different lifestyles and living spaces enriches our approach. For us, design is an aesthetic exploration, a balance of lines, colours, and composition that transcends mere function.

## **How do you see the future of yacht design evolving?**

The industry is shifting from yachts as status symbols to intimate spaces for family enjoyment. Owners increasingly value a seamless blend of luxury and functionality—boats designed as second homes rather than showcases. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this trend, as many turned to yachting as a private and secure retreat.

Technological advancements are also shaping the future, optimising onboard space and enhancing efficiency. Even in the largest yachts, every meter counts, and innovations in materials and systems allow us to maximise living areas. Artificial intelligence will likely play a significant role, not only in yacht manoeuvrability but also in design. We are actively exploring how AI can enhance our creative process, ensuring that Officina Italiana Design remains at the forefront of the industry’s evolution.