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THE FASHIONABLE EXPLORER

The original explorer yachts were either barebones trawlers favored by retired sailors or square-hulled, aluminum vessels that resembled commercial fishing boats. Fifteen years ago, a few builders unveiled a new category, the mini-explorer, with smaller boats that were long on function but similarly short on looks. These just-launched versions, however, not only have ocean-running hulls but panache to spare in the form of artistic interiors, open sterns and fashionable profiles. It's a whole new way to discover the world—this time, in style. **Michael Verdon**



← Numarine 32XP

A creative interior by Italian design firm Hot Lab is one of the prime differentiators between Numarine's 32XP and its last-gen explorer series. The 105-footer has nearly 6,500 square feet of interior space, which Hot Lab used to great effect to create an open salon with oak floors, loose furniture and floor-to-ceiling windows. The master suite on the upper deck, VIP cabin on the main and four suites on the lower deck are also uncharacteristically elegant for an explorer. The aquamarine exterior and zigzag window patterns may be flamboyant, but the vertical bow and 4,000-mile transatlantic range mean the boat is built for serious business.



↓ **Azimut Magellano 25**

With its dual-mode running surface, the new Magellano 25 can cover vast distances at a leisurely cruise or whip along at 25 knots. The 83-foot hull is a prime selling point, but the interior is the real breakthrough. Vincenzo De Cotiis, known for his award-winning residential design, incorporated fiberglass in a novel way, mixing it

with a bronze powder and spreading it strategically across the interior to complement Verde Alpi marble, walnut, polished brass and two original pieces of his artwork. This very un-explorer-like interior also has four staterooms, contiguous banks of windows in the salon, an air-sanitizing system developed by NASA and crew quarters for three.



← **Ocean Alexander 27E**

While only explorers of 150 feet or more have open transoms, at 89 feet the 27E has adopted that stern to hold a Jet Ski, a tender and gear. Though the yacht's profile is different from the other explorers, its designers had the same familiar goal: maximize interior space while incorporating open layouts and expansive windows. With all four staterooms on the lower deck, the main deck has ample space for socializing, extending to gathering areas on the top deck and foredeck. The 2,100-nautical-mile range means the 27E can get from Miami to Barbados with ease, while the three-foot-nine-inch draft allows it to cruise in shallow waters like the Bahamas.

MEET THE WORLD'S FIRST 3-D-PRINTED BOAT



COULD THE Mambo represent the future of boat building? The wild-looking 21-footer, introduced during October's Genoa International Boat Show, was built by Moi Composites via its Continuous Fiber Manufacturing process, which uses a computer and 3-D printer to simultaneously build and shape a boat by adding individual layers of composite materials that are then cured by laser.

Moi CEO Gabriele Natale says 3-D printing will revolutionize boat production because it not only eliminates the need for tooling but can also create unique shapes that are impossible to achieve with traditional molds. As for performance, Mambo's electric-blue hull hit an impressive 26 knots with "excellent stability," Natale says, adding, "We just need to adjust a few settings, and we're confident she'll run at 30 knots." J.Z. 