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A JAPANDI DANDY

After a nine-month refit by Hot Lab, the stunning Heesen Yachts-built *Bijin* is an elegant marriage of Japanese minimalism and Scandinavian warmth

STORY BY **NICK WALTON**

Striking in her new white and black hull, the 50-metre *Bijin* has emerged from a comprehensive nine-month refit, conducted in close collaboration with her owner, at the Monaco Marine shipyard in La Seyne-sur-Mer, ready to start her next chapter on the seven seas.

Milan-based studio Hot Lab, part of the Viken Group, was the driving force behind this ambitious refit project, renewing this elegant 50-metre vessel (launched in 2015 as the *Sibelle*) in a unique aesthetic fusion — part Scandinavian, part Japanese — which has been dubbed "Japandi".

A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Despite being recognised for her original design and engineering prowess at the 2016 World Superyacht Awards, this unique new stylistic expression shouldn't come as much of a surprise. The yacht's new name, *Bijin*, is a Japanese term

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meaning "beautiful woman," a fitting description for the full custom, all-aluminium Fast Displacement Hull Form (FDHF) yacht, the first in a line of 50-metre Heesen vessels.

With input from Austrian interior contractors List GC, the vessel's owner (who bought her in 2024) and crew, *Bijin* has undergone an exterior paint job, transforming her hull from oyster white and grey to an elegant combination of Matterhorn white and jet black, with the addition of a head-turning Sunfast red boot stripe.

Meanwhile, the optimisation of her onboard equipment was conducted in tandem with the transformation of her interior spaces, undertaken by Hot Lab, who had an existing relationship with *Bijin*'s newest owner.

"We have known each other for many years, which naturally led to a relationship of trust and open communication," says Hot Lab co-founder and design director Enrico Lumini of *Bijin*'s owner. "When the time came for them to consider a significant transformation of their yacht, it felt natural for them to turn to someone who not only understood their tastes and expectations but also shared their passion for the sea."

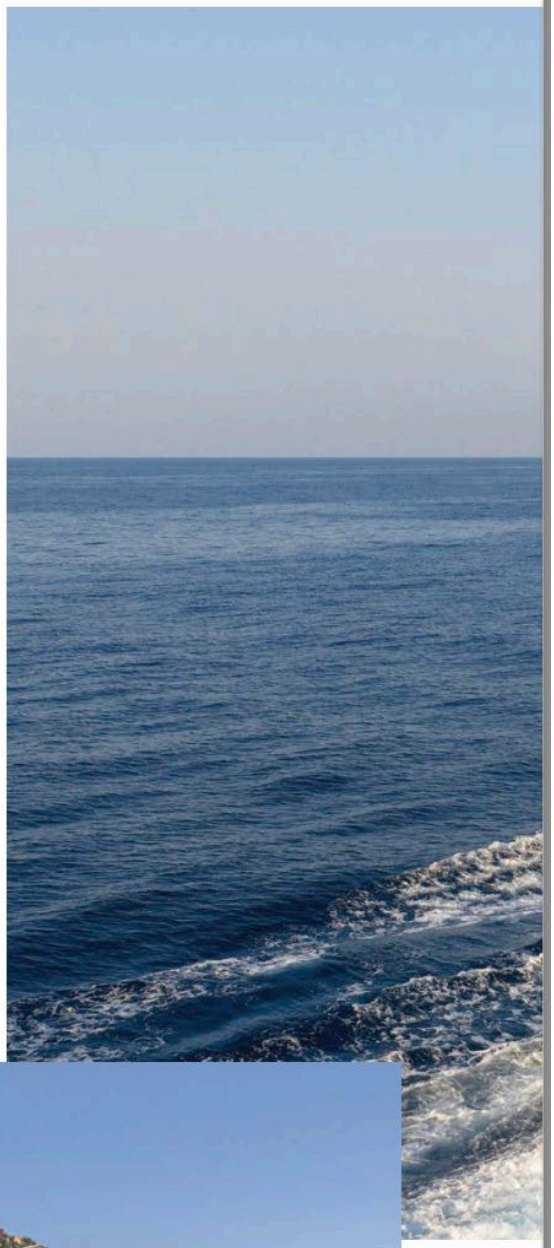
JAPAN MEETS SCANDINAVIA

Bijin's interiors now boast a calming look that merges Japanese minimalism with Scandinavian warmth for a harmonious, serene and refined effect.

As *Bijin* had been maintained in excellent condition by her original, highly experienced owners since her delivery in 2015, she did not require major alterations. Instead, textures, beds, carpets and loose furniture were re-envisioned to offer a more contemporary and tactile experience for her owner and guests.

"The goal was to provide the yacht with a subtle yet meaningful refresh, rather than a radical overhaul," says Lumini. "We aimed for a style that was slightly more fusion, introducing gentle oriental touches, particularly in the design of the headboards."

He says that one of the key changes across the yacht's staterooms and public spaces was to the colour palette. "We moved towards lighter tones and softer shades of brown, replacing the previous,



From top: *Bijin's refit has retained the yacht's timeless elegance; the yacht was launched in 2015 as part of a new series of 50-metre vessels by Heesen.*

more pronounced colours," says Lumini. "This approach was intended to create a sense of freshness and clarity throughout the interiors, making the spaces feel more open and inviting, while still retaining the yacht's original elegance."

PERFECT FOR PAMPERING

Standout areas on board *Bijin* include her expansive sundeck, which offers enough space to comfortably host dozens of friends and guests. The bar area on the upper deck also serves as a central gathering point and is perfect for both socialising and relaxation.

With the yacht accommodating up to 10 guests, *Bijin*'s owner's suite is exceptionally spacious, with its unique layout including two generous his-and-hers bathrooms that act as a buffer zone before entering the main cabin. This arrangement creates an intimate, private space for her owners to feel both pampered and protected.

The project, overseen by Augustin Fabre, project manager at Monaco Marine, offers "*Bijin* a new visual identity and optimised functionality, in compliance with the most demanding standards," says Fabre. The yacht will now be used both privately and for charter and is already fully booked for her first upcoming season in the West Mediterranean. ***hotlab.it***