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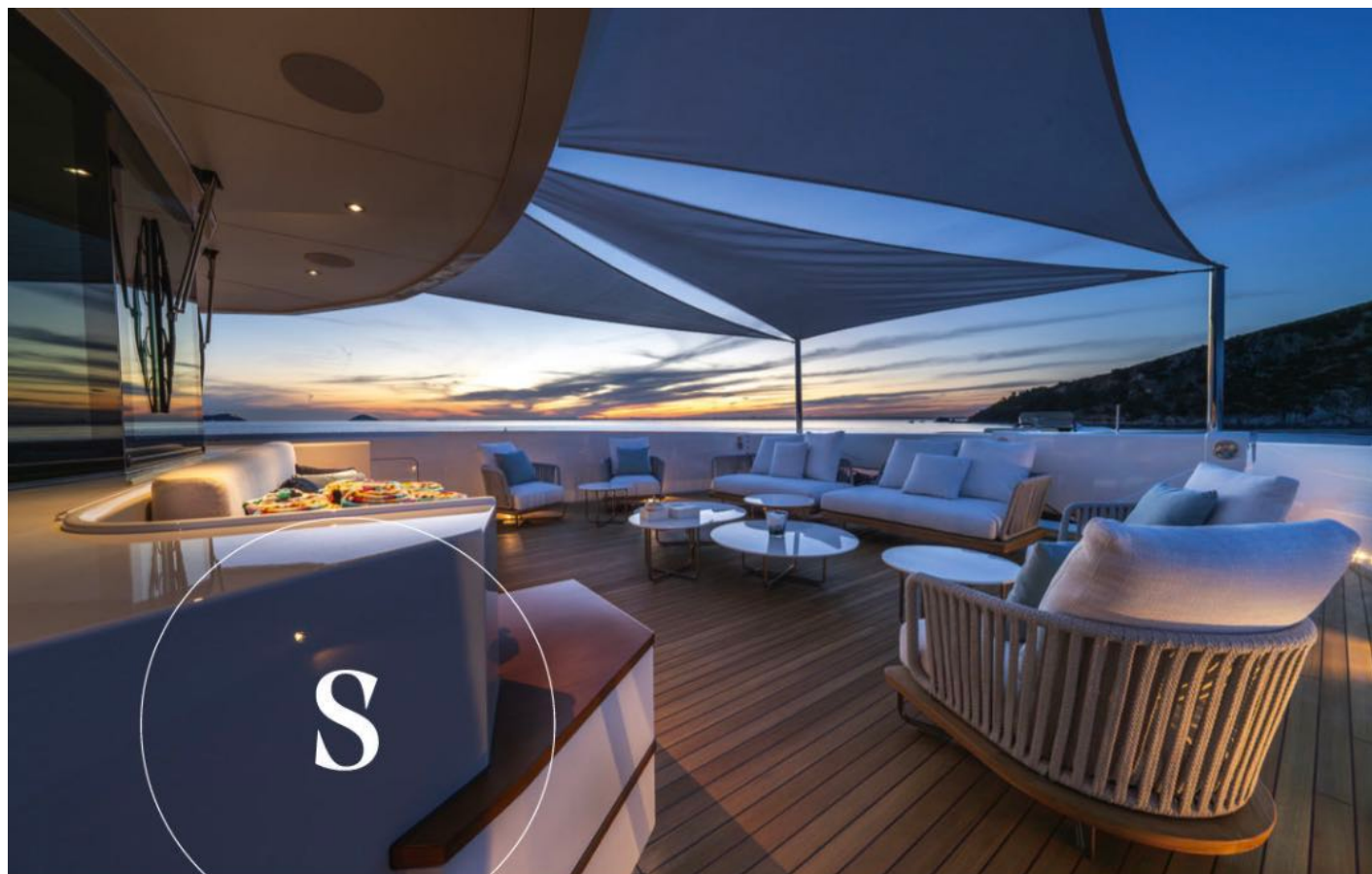
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STEPPING ON BOARD *CAMILA*,
THE NEWEST BILGIN 163,
MARILYN MOWER DISCOVERS
THAT NO TWO SISTERSHIPS
ARE EVER QUITE THE SAME





Sisters may share a lineage, but rarely the same temperament. This notion rings true in the 164-foot *Camila*, the second hull in Bilgin Yachts' 163 series. Unlike her 2024 sistership, *Eternal Spark*, which featured all the bling and whistles befitting a charter yacht, *Camila* feels like an oasis of calm.

For builder Bilgin Yachts of Turkey, *Camila* and *Eternal Spark* represent evolutions of *Snow 5*, a 156-foot yacht that Bilgin launched in 2022 to test the sub-50-meter, below-500GT market.

"This 50- and soon to be 53-meter are very good series for us at under 499GT and attractive to clients in the Americas. We begin them on spec, and the owners can get them in about a year and a half," Tuğba Şengün, marketing director of Bilgin Yachts, says. "The interiors of each have been different and have helped us raise the bar. Flexibility is a tradition we carry on from the traditions of my grandfather, who founded the company."

The full-displacement hull and strongly chiseled exterior styling of the steel and aluminum 163 Series are by Emrehan Özgün's Unique Yacht Design in Antalya. Özgün says that the design's goal is to enhance open-air living through cleverly arranged, spacious deck areas, including a 69-foot sundeck, a 39-foot shaded bridge aft deck and a wide main deck aft connected to the beach club gym below. The proportions of the deck overhangs are balanced, not adding visual weight to the yacht's sporty profile.

Camila's modern exterior profile features a near-plumb bow and sharply angled notches to the main deck bulwarks that enhance views from the interior. The wing stations, standing in bold relief against the rest of the bulwarks, are a design feature on the bridge deck. On the sundeck, angled pillars recalling other exterior features support a central hardtop. A hard chine sweeping back from the bow teases into a bustle on the stern quarter, giving a nice bit of visual weight to finish

Designed to accommodate a large, multi-generational family, *Camila*'s layout puts an emphasis on capacious gathering spaces fore and aft. Right: the bridge aft deck hosts al fresco dining. Note the wood panels in the overhead



THE DESIGN'S GOAL IS TO
ENHANCE OPEN-AIR LIVING
THROUGH CLEVERLY ARRANGED,
SPACIOUS DECK AREAS

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Unique Yacht Design is responsible for the full displacement hull and chiseled exterior. Below right: glass panels in the main deck lobby's floor usher light to the guest foyer below. Far right: the main salon limits reflective surfaces to the overhead

off the boat. These details create a crisp, modern, masculine profile that stops just short of being too aggressive.

At the request of *Camila's* owner, Özgün and Bilgin optimized the layout, reconfiguring storage and moving tenders forward to free up the aft sections for more spacious, serene guest areas. One of the surprises, however, is a pleasant sitting area with sofas forward of the bridge. It offers a great vantage point for harbor entrances but, with the addition of awnings, is also a nicely shaded lounge area.

Powered by twin 1,450-horsepower Cat C32 engines, *Camila* also boasts excellent performance, reaching a top speed of 17 knots with a transoceanic range of approximately 5,000 nautical miles at 10 knots.

Although *Camila* and *Eternal Spark* share the same interior designer, Milan-based design studio Hot Lab, their motifs are as different as their client briefs. *Camila* is a family boat for Latin American clients who cruise the waters of the Caribbean and the Bahamas. The fact that Bilgin is a family-owned shipyard — the Şengün family is now on its third generation of boatbuilders — was not lost on these clients.

According to Frank Grzeszczak Jr of FGI Yacht Group, who helped broker the deal, *Camila* is the family's first custom build. Their previous superyacht was a 131-foot Benetti semi-custom yacht, commissioned initially for a different owner. *Camila* began as an inquiry in 2018 and, after a rigorous analysis of six Italian and Dutch yards, the client opted for the Turkish builder. "By 2022, the client was really ready to begin his own yacht," Grzeszczak says. "He had all his ideas but had a hard time finding a yard that gave him the flexibility he demanded over the interior and change orders." That was until the client visited Bilgin.



THE INTERIOR DESIGN GUIDES THE EYE TO THE FORWARD DINING AREA AND TO ONE OF THE YACHT'S SHOWPIECES, AN UNUSUAL CHANDELIER FROM LUCE5



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HANGING LUCE

Luce5 is an Italian lighting brand launched in 1991 and now averaging 600 installations per year, mostly in high-end shops. Its yachting specialist design and production team is located in Viareggio. The company's mantra is that onboard lighting is not an end in itself, but a means of expressing style, comfort and innovation.

The two signature chandeliers for *Camila* were developed with Hot Lab and the yacht's owner. His request was for unique and precious art pieces that share a concept but have different styles. The idea of glass "petals and buds" was born to merge the technical soul of the two objects. The body of each chandelier is aluminum with a custom antique brass finish. Accenting the central staircase, the lobby chandelier drops 20 feet. Light escapes the central "stem" through myriad small holes perforating the central tube, their brightness representing buds yet to bloom. Glass flowers made of 283 molded glass petals in clear, smoked and bronze wavy glass branch off the stem, reflecting and scattering its light. Hanging above the dining table, the companion piece features 81 molded petals. Luce5 has its own technical team for engineering the components and their installation on board. Notably, the company invests 10 percent of its revenue into research and development annually.



"He liked their sub-500GT platform, although he didn't want *Eternal Spark's* finishes," Grzeszczak continues. "Sitting down with the family in the yard in December 2022, we reached a clear understanding, and the yard gave us carte blanche in terms of flexibility and budget control. We went to contract quickly in March 2023."

With the hull in very early construction stages at the time of contract, the owner was looking at a nearly blank canvas — an enviable position when buying a yacht started on spec. Bilgin recommended a few interior designers with experience at the yard, including the Italian firm Hot Lab. "He liked things about each one's portfolios, but he clicked with Hot Lab," Grzeszczak says. "That was important to my client. He is very particular, very demanding and very hands-on. He knew he would be spending a lot of time with the designers, so mutual understanding was going to be important." In fact, the owner made five trips to Milan to discuss and select details for the interior finishes and fabrics, as well as choosing the perfect chandeliers.

The interior design needed to manage a mix of private living spaces — with five cabins on the lower deck — and large gathering areas for multiple generations, presenting an aura of calm and comfort throughout. "The owner's brief was to create an environment of refined elegance and timeless beauty, where modernity and warmth coexist harmoniously," says Chiara Pastore, lead designer on the project for Hot Lab, who worked on the design for *Camila* alongside the firm's partner and design director, Enrico Lumini, and designer Elena Seregini.

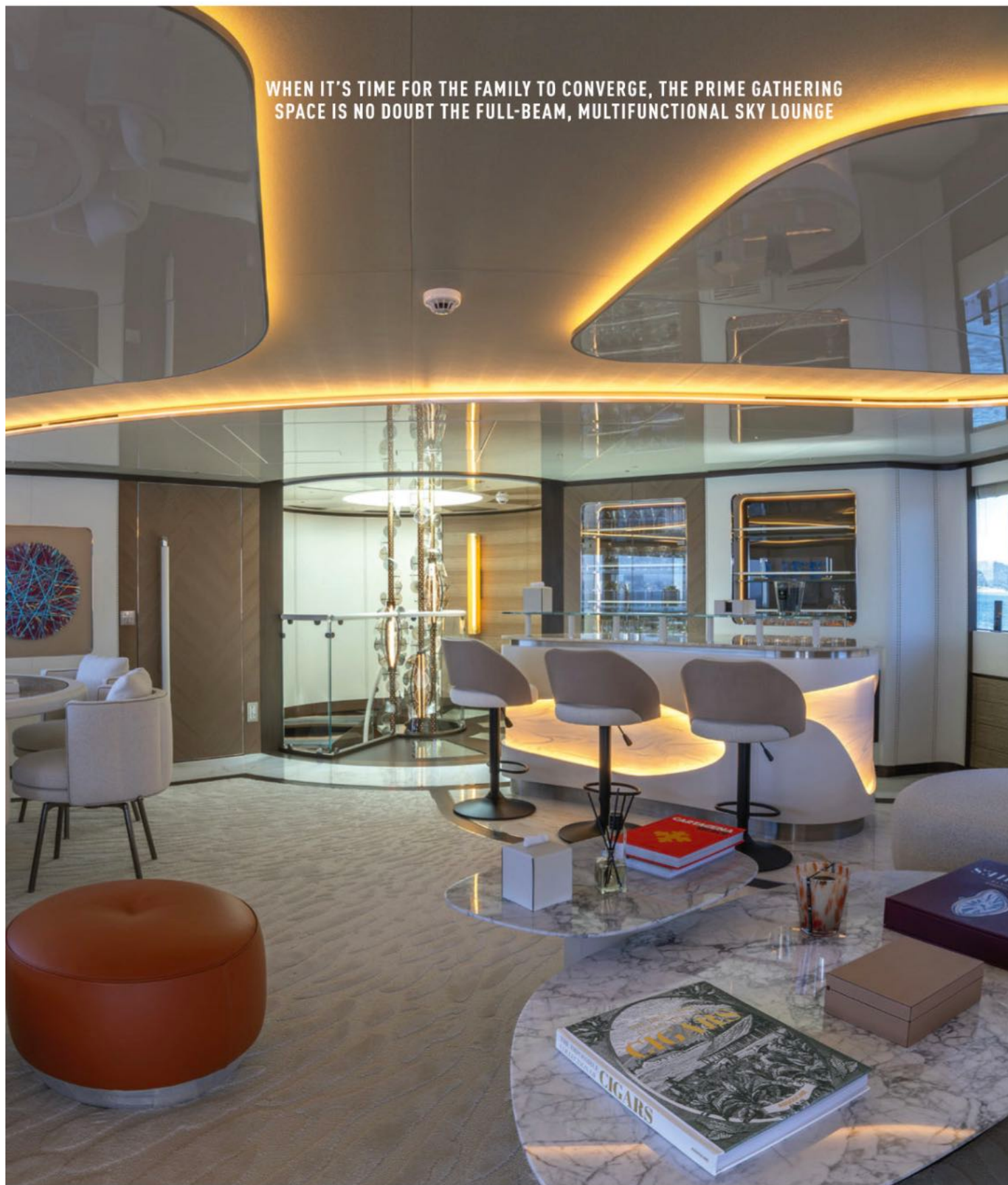
"We worked with a palette of warm, inviting neutrals, blending natural materials and rich textures to evoke balance and comfort," Pastore says. "The goal was to create spaces that are quietly luxurious, where every detail contributes to a serene and sophisticated atmosphere."

Part of the interior's cohesiveness stems from the use of just four primary materials: eucalyptus wood, brushed bronze, leather and Calacatta gold marble. The overheads feature sections of glossy white lacquer suspended from inverted tray ceilings, contrasting with leather or matte paint. The look isn't repetitive, though, due to subtle variations. For example, leather appears in six embossed textures, and the lacquered ceiling panels come in a variety of shapes, both geometric and organic.

Hot Lab mirrored the modernity of the yacht's exterior profile but tempered it with curves and organic shapes for the primary furniture



WHEN IT'S TIME FOR THE FAMILY TO CONVERGE, THE PRIME GATHERING SPACE IS NO DOUBT THE FULL-BEAM, MULTIFUNCTIONAL SKY LOUNGE







The bed in the owner's full-beam cabin on the main deck appears to float, cantilevered off the wraparound headboard. The joinery is eucalyptus

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pieces. In the main salon, for example, two crescent-shaped sofas frame an oversized, irregularly shaped coffee table. The interior design then guides the eye of guests to the forward dining area and to one of the yacht's showpieces, an unusual chandelier from Luce5 above the wood, bronze and onyx tabletop. Glass flowers descend from scores of gleaming bronze rods. They diffuse and deflect light beams emanating from a mirror-finished bronze plate in the overhead. The reflection of the chandelier dances across the surface of the dining table, which expands from accommodating 10 guests to 12. The center of the table, built in house, features an inset of backlit onyx, imparting a warm glow to table settings, also selected by Pastore.

To show off a second lighting statement piece — a 20-foot-tall chandelier cascading down the central staircase — a curved wall in clear glass separates the salon from the yacht's central lobby. Meanwhile, glass panels in the sundeck floor filter sunlight all the way down to the guest accommodations on the lower deck. The staircase and its surrounding atrium are large for a yacht this size and give the foyer its impressive feel. It's an extravagance, perhaps, but it certainly imparts luxury.

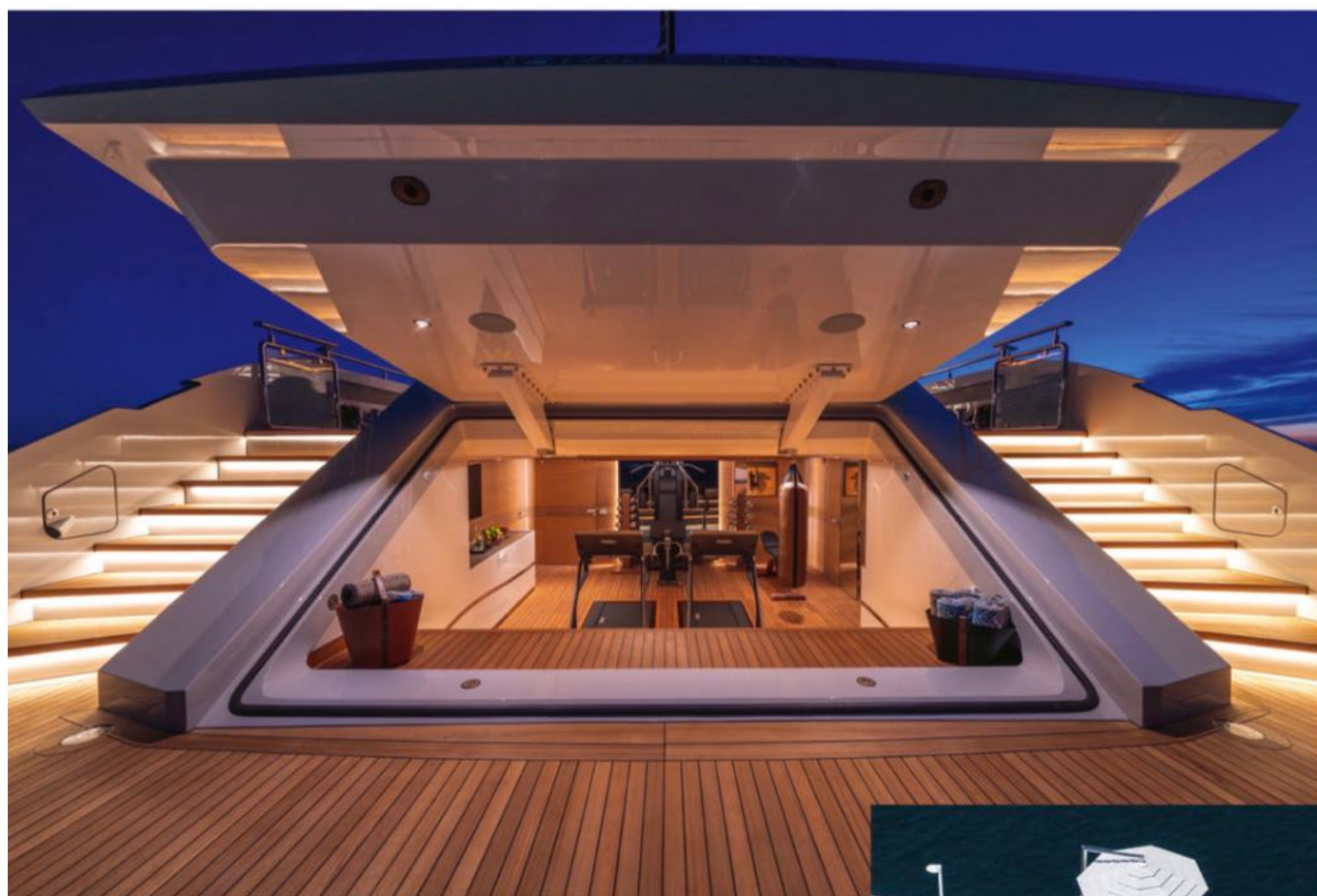
Forward on the main deck is the owner's suite with a separate office. The bed features an integrated, upholstered bench at its foot. The leather headboard embraces the bed and connected nightstands, conveying a sense of protection.

Here and in all the family cabins, inverted tray ceilings with irregularly shaped suspended panels hide indirect lighting. This solution provides diffused, gentle illumination, highlighting the forms of the spaces and the materials without visible light sources.

Throughout all the cabins, a thin metal strip at the intersection of cream-colored leather and eucalyptus wood is a consistent design thread. The band of paneling under the ceiling has a semi-matte finish, like all the wood on board, and elegantly frames the walls, almost like flat modern crown molding, emphasizing height and visual balance. The result is a sense of continuity and coherence, with soft reflections that bring out the wood's natural beauty without any artificial shine.

Among the cabins on the lower deck are a pair of twins that get special treatment for something that's usually an afterthought. Their closet doors showcase a subtle 3D effect from wavy matte glass set in wood frames. These gentle reflections add movement and a bit of fun to the small rooms meant for the family's youngest members. In fact, examples of the children's artwork, simply framed, are the only other decorative elements in these rooms.

When it's time for the family to converge, the prime gathering space is no doubt the full-beam, multifunctional sky lounge. Each space in the lounge — the relaxed seating

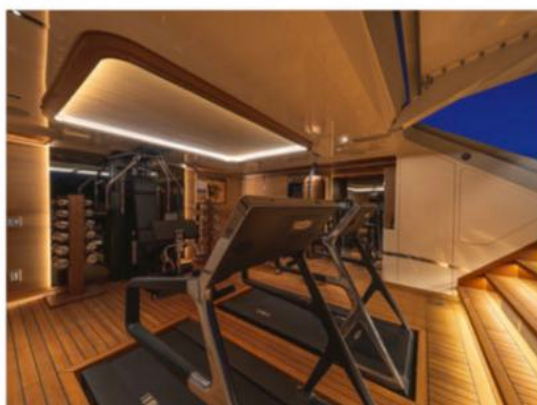


Rather than choosing a beach club contained in a box, *Camila's* owner put a gym and sauna at the stern for use underway or at anchor

area, bar, dining and movie-watching space — is distinct but connected through shared palettes and textures. Fabrics throughout are mainly from Dedar, itself a family company founded by Nicola and Elda Fabrizio and now run by their children. Additional selections from Missoni Home, Pierre Frey and Jim Thompson add variety and a touch of sophisticated liveliness. In total, there are three dining areas that will seat the entire complement of 12 guests.

Speaking about the interior and deck area details, Grzeszczak says, "He's an elegant client who likes an elegant look. He's very exacting, and I believe he would say that Bilgin exceeded his expectations with *Camila*. From the beginning, it's been an excellent project; every time the owner asked for a little bit more, the yard responded positively."

Bilgin's series yachts continue to evolve, and the next yacht to succeed the 163 will be nearly 10 feet longer to increase the area for the aft main deck, swim platform and beach club. Framing and structural changes will eliminate the interior structural supports that currently divide the main deck lounge from the dining space, creating a more open feel. The first unit sporting the longer LOA, which will be dubbed the Bilgin 173, was sold during the 2025 Monaco Yacht Show where *Camila* made her grand entrance. It's clear that in this family, each sibling will keep redefining what it means to be a Bilgin. ▢



SPECS

CAMILA

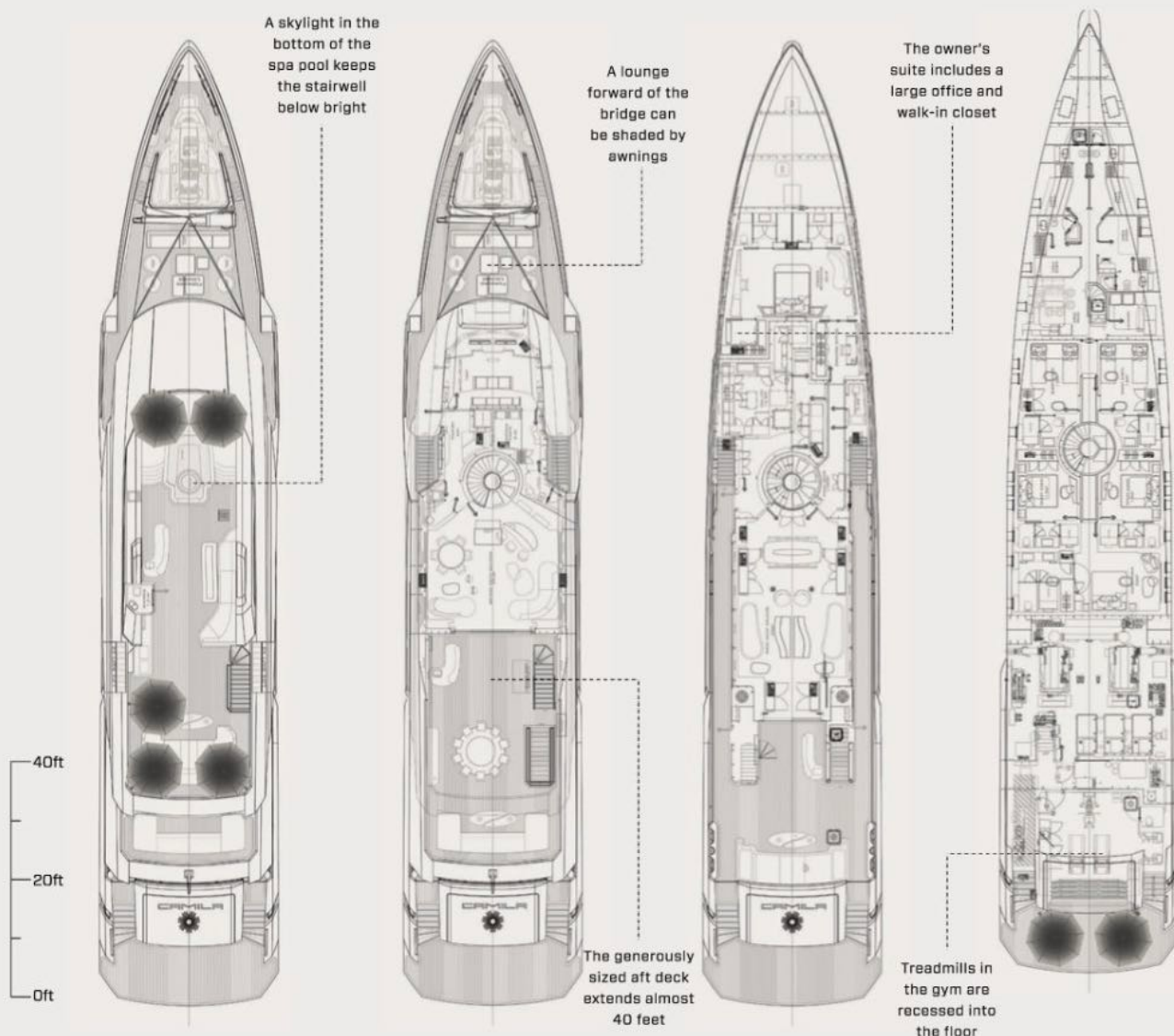
BILGIN YACHTS

SUNDECK

BRIDGE DECK

MAIN DECK

LOWER DECK



LOA 163' 11"
LWL 158' 4"
Beam 30' 4"
Draft (full load) 8' 6"
Gross tonnage 499GT
Engines 2 x 1,081kw
Caterpillar C32
Generators 3 x 99ekW
Caterpillar C4.4

Stabilizers
CMC Marine LR70
Speed (max/cruise)
17/12 knots
Range at 10 knots
5,000 nm
Fuel capacity
14,529 gallons

Freshwater capacity
2,906 gallons
Tender
39' Skipper
Owners/guests 12
Crew 9
Construction
Steel hull; aluminum superstructure

Classification Rina
C, Hull, Mach, Y
Unrestricted; REG
Yacht Code Compliant
Naval architecture
Unique Yacht Design
Exterior design
Unique Yacht Design
Interior design
Hot Lab

Builder/year
Bilgin Yachts/2025
Istanbul, Turkey
+90 212 876 45 47
info@bilginyacht.com
bilginyacht.com

