



Dehler 44

New direction for Dehler

Over the next three years, Dehler plan to introduce seven new models, ranging from 34ft to 56ft. Pitching in with the Dehler 44, due for launch in August 2006, the new range is the result of collaboration with naval architects Alexander Simonis and Maarten Voogd.

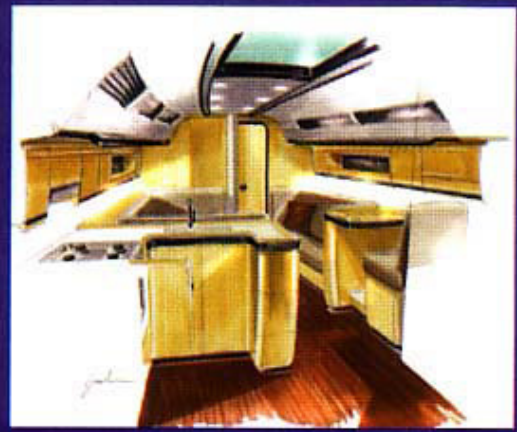
Over Simonis Voogd's 20-year history, they have designed everything from one-offs to charter boats, including two line honours winners in the Sydney-Hobart race. Carefully designed to capitalise on the IRC and IMS rules, the 44 will be a 'Regatta Cruiser', aimed at re-establishing the brand in the race market while providing comfortable accommodation.

Two styles will be available, a more traditional 'Elegance' version and the 44SQ 'Regatta/Avant-garde' which will feature similar carbon components to

the 47SQ and will have a more modern interior. "The focus is clear," explains CEO Wilan van den Berg, "We want to beat X-Yachts." Simonis Voogd have obviously worked hard to ensure clean lines, and flush hatches, recessed sprayhood stowage and a cockpit table which neatly retracts into the floor to occupy a space between the two aft cabins are clear signs of this.

Other notable features are long, narrow windows running the length of the coachroof like striplights and a utility box at the back of the cockpit that stores a long boarding ladder which can double as a passerelle when overlay boards are added. The box will be completely removable for racing to leave an open transom.

One concept mentioned by Simonis Voogd is particularly intriguing – a swinging steering pedestal, designed to allow the



'Avant-garde' or 'Elegance' interiors give a modern or traditional look



helmsman to steer from either side of the cockpit without resorting to twin helms or a huge race wheel. The advantages could be tremendous, with cost savings on instruments which would otherwise need to be doubled-up, and easy access when moored stern-to.

Although this idea will not be available on early models, the 44 looks as if it could be a fast boat with a lot of innovative differences.

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