

# Sail Away

LET'S SAIL AWAY WITH KAMINI EZRALOW, INTERIOR DESIGNER EXTRAORDINAIRE, THE TALENT BEHIND CELESTIAL HOPE

Celestial Hope has rightly won many awards when it was launched few years ago. "The owners asked us to create an environment that had a distinct Hamptons feel and referred us to a movie that had made an impression on them called 'Somethings Gotta Give' (with Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton). We took inspiration from this, and while keeping

true to the 'beachy' feel, we infused the scheme with elements of luxury appropriate to and expected on a mega yacht. We specified a soft white for all the lacquered panels, and used a palette of soft blues, aquas and ivories. The owners wanted the vessel to exude comfort, elegance and luxury," admits the leading interior designer who owns her own London-based studio, Ezralow Design.



**"DESIGN IS NOT JUST ABOUT ENVIRONMENT. IT IS ABOUT IN-VIRONMENT, THE WAY THE FLOW AND ENERGY OF A ROOM CAN MAKE YOU FEEL"**



Karmini Erzalow defines the description of a global interior designer. Her roots are in India and South Africa, but she grew up in Hong Kong where she was educated at the German school, and travelled widely with her family as a child. A true internationalist, she is fluent in English, French and German. It was her love of textiles that first drew her to interiors, inspired by the jewel-like saris, often embroidered with shimmering gold and silver thread, which her mother wore. When she married her American husband, Orrin, the couple decided to move to his home town of LA. There Kamini founded a studio called Dao Designs, which expressed much of what underpins Eastern philosophy in the context of space. As Kamini explains, "Design is not just about environment. It is about in-vvironment, the way the flow and energy of a room can make you feel".





THE BOAT WON SIX AWARDS, INCLUDING A COVETED SUPERYACHT PLAUDIT AND THE ASIA BOATING AWARD FOR MOST INNOVATIVE INTERIOR DESIGN





Her signature blend of clean, contemporary lines with unashamedly old-fashioned glamour won her acclaim and saw her garner awards, most notably her first yacht interior, *Celestial Hope*, a 47m craft built by Heesen, in which she took inspiration from the barefoot chic found in beach houses on the Hamptons. The boat won six awards, including a coveted Superyacht plaudit and the Asia Boating Award for Most Innovative Interior Design. "Most of the furniture is bespoke, we design in house and work with some of the best craftsmen in the world, for example, the hand carved dining table base is made by one the leading and oldest craftsmen in Italy. Among the textures of linens, silks, leathers and silk velvets, we also specified some special finishes. Our design is about an unstinting attention to detail. One of these finishes is *Verre Eglomise*, a technique of gilding, etching and painting backs of mirrors dating back to the 18th Century. We commissioned one of our craftsmen to create some panels for the Main Salon and worked with them to ensure that the colours were in harmony with the rest of the scheme. We often bring classic techniques into contemporary settings and use. The design that was adapted is actually from an antique wallpaper and completely bespoke for the yacht. Similarly, we used a *Verre Eglomise* for the vanity top of her dressing area in the Master Cabin, a bespoke etched inlay into a feminine scalloped shape," she continues. "Another example of classic materials used in a contemporary way is the use of Murano glass, we installed a custom Murano chandelier in the dining area and all the mirror surrounds in the guest cabin ensembles are





ONE OF THESE FINISHES IS VERRE EGLOMISE, A TECHNIQUE OF GILDING, ETCHING AND PAINTING BACKS OF MIRRORS DATING BACK TO THE 18TH CENTURY





bespoke Murano glass designed in-house. We continually strive to add uniqueness and to 'push the boundaries', we worked with a specialist company in London to create the 'skin' for the staircase atrium, using a thin layer of metal, the first of its kind on water. The concept was to use the imprint of real leaves on to a specialised metal finish, with a canopy of leaves on the Bridge Deck level, with leaves 'falling down' the atrium staircase. We also treated the moor oak treads with this platinum like finish, so that the timber grain was highlighted with a platinum finish. We designed a recessed hand rail that was also finished with the same metal finish, with a concealed light, the result is one that is truly unexpected and ultra-tactile." As a designer, Kamini considers one of her biggest compliments to be that so many of her clients return to her again and again, trusting both her unerring eye for design and the emphasis she puts on their very special relationship. She says, "The essence of what I do has never really changed from when I first started. I see my role as creating homes that have a positive influence on how people feel and how they live their lives. My aim with every project is not just to give the client what they want, but to give them more than they could ever have expected".