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Behind The Design Of The 281ft Cakewalk:
The Largest Build In The United States

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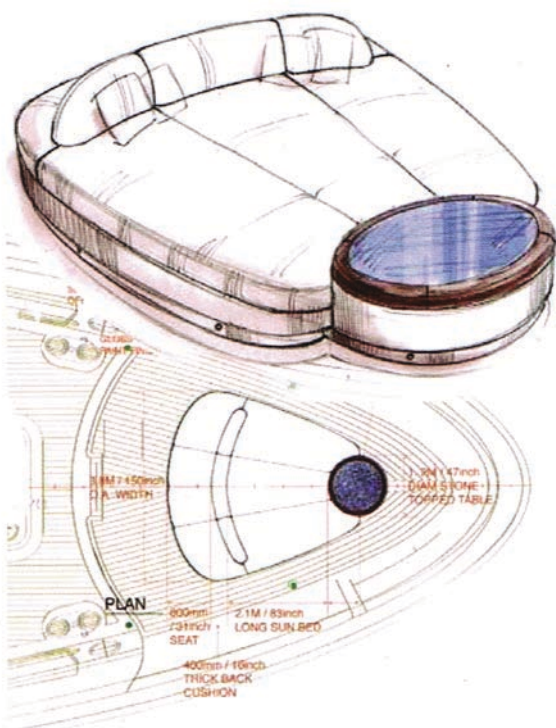
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AN EXCLUSIVE
LOOK AT
THE DESIGN
PROCESS
BEHIND THE
LARGEST BUILD
IN THE US.

CAKEWALK



TEXT: LOUISA BECKETT

It has been mentioned before, but it bears repeating: When *Cakewalk* is delivered in 2010, the six-deck, 281ft project currently under construction at Derecktor in Bridgeport, Connecticut, will be the largest yacht built in the US in more than three quarters of a century. In fact, her designer, Tim Heywood, says, "I think in terms of volume, she is the largest private yacht ever built in America."

To the man behind this monumental project, a highly experienced yachtsman who, along with his wife, has owned four previous large *Cakewalks*, that is precisely the point. "The owner really wanted to build the boat in the US, he wanted to prove we could build a European quality vessel here in the United States," says his captain and project manager, Bill Zinser.

The main prerequisite in selecting a shipyard for the project, however, was to find one that combined both yacht building and commercial boat-building expertise. "You have to have a commercial shipyard mentality to build a project this big," says Captain Zinser.

Derecktor, which has locations in Connecticut, New York and Florida, has built more than 250 vessels ranging from America's Cup defenders to high-speed ferries. The yard already had a good track record with the owners, having transformed the 132ft 7in Feadship *Fifanella* into the third *Cakewalk*, in 1995-1996, adding nearly 10 feet to her length – at the time, one of the biggest refit projects in the US.

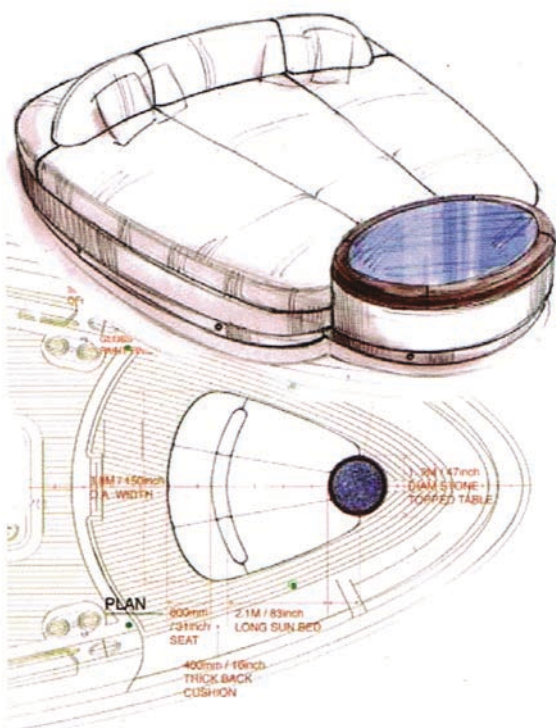
The contract for this *Cakewalk* was signed in June, 2006. Today, her steel hull and aluminum superstructure are complete and work is well underway on the interior.

To design this custom superyacht, the owner turned to a master with experience working on



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