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DEEDS AND DON'TS

OUT OF THE BOX

Historic Districts Are Heating Up Bathroom Luxuries

A motoryacht undergoes a metamorphosis that, with a dose of 1930's flair, turns it into a literal floating second home.

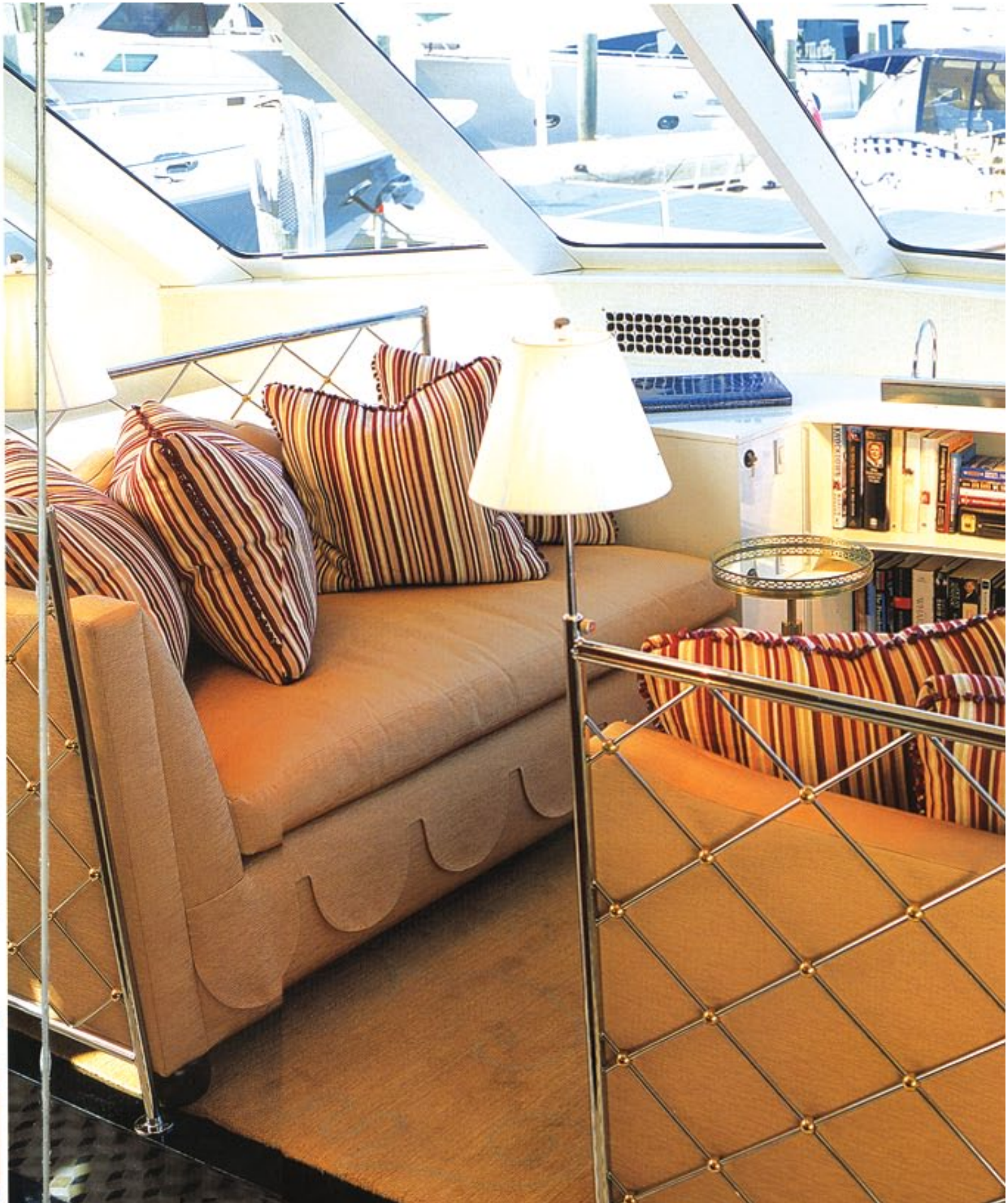
BY DONNA PAUL | PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIM SARGENT

ship to shore

The polished marble beneath my feet felt smooth and cool; the exotic gem-like bits of jade, celadon green and sky blue mosaic sparkled like water. A breeze filled the room and dappled sunlight cast a warm glow as it bounced off the white stone walls. Everything felt perfect. And then we moved. Ever so slightly; but we moved. I was brought back to reality, reminded that I wasn't in a luxury hotel suite or a private home. I was aboard the yacht *Moonriver*, and the tide was rising. Docked at the Australian pier on the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Beach, the 103-foot-long motoryacht had recently undergone a total overhaul of its interiors. The owners, who live in New England, are avid boaters who decided they were tired of staying in hotels. So, they purchased a yacht they could travel on and comfortably live on—a literal moving second home. "I wanted a lot of



Coming About | *Moonriver* (opposite) motors up the Intracoastal Waterway by Palm Beach. The yacht's interior designer, Darren Henault, stripped away the original oak interior and opened up the living spaces to create a true second home. When his work was complete, the elegance of the exterior was finally realized on the interior. See Resources.



comfortable spaces to sit around and read, other areas for entertaining, another for watching movies and a work zone," she recalls.

The couple turned to New York-based designer Darren Henault to create an entirely new look for the seven-year-old vessel. The plan was to eliminate the ubiquitous nautical décor, the seashell fabric, heavy built-ins and dark varnished wood. When Henault first saw it, he was thrilled with its pure and elegant lines. "It wasn't an over-designed McYacht. It was sexy, simple and the mid-night blue hull is old fashioned," he says.

As a voracious reader, Henault turned to books about the grand ocean liners of the 1930's for inspiration. He admits that he couldn't stop thinking about the *Normandy*, the famed French liner from that era. The wife had initially wanted a 1960's look, but quickly became a convert. "I wanted it to be simple, clean and light, and when I saw the designs featured on yachts from the 1930's, I knew it would be right for this boat," she says.

"Boats are not usually comfortable," Henault reminded me as I curled up onto the sofa to watch a DVD in the media/living room. Typically, boat furniture is not made like residential furniture—it's not cushy and welcoming. However, *Moonriver* was conceived of as a true home, so Henault employed expert upholsterers to assure that all

Making Waves | Sunlight pours into the galley (TOP RIGHT). The countertops are honed Giallo limestone from Ann Sacks. **Gilded Age** | Throughout, designer Darren Henault drew on 1930's-era design for inspiration. In the library/media room, he gilded the bar cabinets (MIDDLE RIGHT) with an inlaid nickel border. **Eat In** | The galley's open dining area (BOTTOM RIGHT) features a custom designed rosewood table with an ebony inlay. **Sumptuous Spread** | The library sofa (OPPOSITE) sport follows in Lulu deKorathowski fabric. See Resources.



the furniture measured up to residential quality. The work had to be executed to exacting standards in order to be seaworthy. For instance, stainless steel nails and springs were used in every piece.

Luxurious materials were used throughout, but all were chosen to be exceptionally durable. Ultrasuede, high-quality wool and tongue oiled finishes proved that beauty and function could co-exist. Dark varnished mahogany floors were replaced with hand-knotted Tibetan carpets that appear to be wall-to-wall, but are cut to fit the space.

Structural changes were also required to make the yacht into a home. The cabin usually called the lower helm station was transformed into a chic library/lounge/bar. It is more than a place to read—it's the ultimate lounging spot to recline and daydream when the boat is underway. Here comfort and glamour commingle. Henault took his cues from Jean Royère, a leading French designer from the 1930's whose coffee table design influenced the look of the railing that encircles the seating area. The X-framed configuration is fashioned of stainless steel and bronze. The work of Gilbert Poillerat, another 1930's-era designer known for his metal work, inspired Henault to create a 1/8-inch inlaid nickel border along the bar cabinet doors.

It may be 2004, but for those few days on the boat, it was some time in the past and we were cruising the seas on a luxuriously ocean liner. I could almost hear Henry Mancini singing, "Moon river, wider than a smile...I'm crossin' you in style..."

Captain's Quarters | Henault used a quilted headboard by Joseph Noble to dramatic effect in the master bedroom (OPPOSITE) **Head Start** | Mosaic tilework from Ann Sacks enlivens the master bathroom (ABOVE LEFT) **Period Piece** | A drop-down desk (CENTER LEFT) in the guest bedroom **Soft Spot** | The guest bathroom (BOTTOM LEFT) also features Ann Sacks tilework. See Resources