

World Cruise

Industry Review

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Hidden dangers

How the industry is preparing for SOLAS 2010 regulations



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A marine alliance of architecture and design

Stirling Design International, a French company of naval designers and architects, is winning prizes and plaudits for its eye-catching ‘cruising yachts’.

The completion of two 140m cruise ships demonstrates Stirling Design International’s (SDI) commitment to the conceptual design of outstanding vessels.

Due to be delivered to Compagnie du Ponant 12 months apart – *Le Boreal* in May 2010 and *L’Austral* in May 2011 – these cruise ships are the fruit of extensive design work in close collaboration with the cruise line and the shipyards. The radical new shapes of these vessels, envisioned as large private yachts, feature large arched windows that provide aesthetic and functional continuity between the interior and exterior passenger spaces.

“*Le Boreal* meets our highest standards in terms of quality. The ship therefore deserves this award as ‘Best Newcomer of the Year 2010’.”

The design of the ships, the first new constructions for Compagnie du Ponant since it was acquired by CMA CGM in 2004, has won over regular clients and new customers wishing to discover outstanding cruises.



SDI/STX EUROPE

SDI developed the ecological cruise ship *Eoseas* for STX Europe.

Custom-built at the Fincantieri Shipyard in Ancona, Italy, *Le Boreal* is the fourth ship of Compagnie du Ponant’s cruise fleet. Its 132 cabins can accommodate 260 passengers, providing all with sea views and almost all with private balconies.

The pure, streamlined silhouette was created by SDI in Nantes, France, and the ship was recently awarded a Gold Medal by the European Cruiser Association, a prize given in recognition of its elegance, personality, innovative



Le Boreal on its maiden cruise in May 2010.

PHILIP PLISSON



Profile studies for the *Le Boreal* project.

STIRLING DESIGN INTERNATIONAL

equipment and meticulous attention to detail in the design to fulfil passenger expectations.

“*Le Boreal* meets our highest standards in terms of quality,” said Stefan Jaeger, president of the European Cruiser Association. “The ship therefore deserves this award as ‘Best Newcomer of the Year 2010’. It is not only about her particular style, it is also the inclusion of state-of-the-art, eco-friendly technologies that tipped the balance in her favour.”

As well as implementing eco-friendly technologies in its designs for Compagnie du Ponant, in the past two years SDI has made an essential contribution to the development of the ecological cruise ship *Eoseas* for STX Europe by providing a revolutionary concept and architecture for a multihull cruise vessel with semi-rigid sails. This technology platform, which is intended to offer its passengers a decisively modern sailing experience, halves the ship’s carbon footprint.

The company has also worked on the development and launch of one of the first commercial software programs for ship life cycle analysis, Sustainable Ship Design (SSD), today used by major shipyards, suppliers and naval architects.

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History of design

SDI is a French firm of naval designers and architects specialising in the design of mega yachts and commercial vessels, and its decision to combine technical and aesthetic excellence in the marine sector is an essential strong point. This command of interior design, exterior styling and naval engineering implies that the design stages can be shortened and considerable innovative capacity released.

Founded in 1976 by Joël Brétécher, architect and former Ferrari designer at Pininfarina, SDI rapidly entered several

industrial fields, including naval design and aeronautics. Delivery of the cruise ship *Le Ponant* in 1991 made SDI’s name internationally for interior and exterior design in a decisively modern style. Delivered to Compagnie du Ponant in 1998, *Le Levant* is a thoroughbred yacht also designed by SDI. In 2003, *Heloval*, a 42m luxury motor yacht, designed by SDI and built by CMN in Cherbourg, was acclaimed as one of the five finest vessels of the year by the International Superyacht Society.

In 2007, Thibaut Tincelin, who trained as a naval architect with the École Polytechnique in France and Delft University of Technology in Holland, became director of SDI’s naval architecture and design office after gaining professional expertise in the Saint Nazaire, Lorient and Miami design offices of the shipbuilder Chantiers de l’Atlantique.

Tincelin and Brétécher are now vigorously pursuing projects in varied sectors ranging from private yachts, floating habitats and establishments to electric passenger boats and private jets.

Le Boreal vital statistics

■ Length overall	142.1m
■ Length between pp	126.2m
■ Beam	18m
■ Draught	4.7m
■ Gauge	10,700 UMS
■ Passenger cabins	132
■ Total passengers	264
■ Crew cabins	75
■ Total crew	139

Please visit SDI representatives during SMM Hamburg, which takes place 7-10 September 2010, at Hall B4.OG, Stand 20. ■

Further information

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