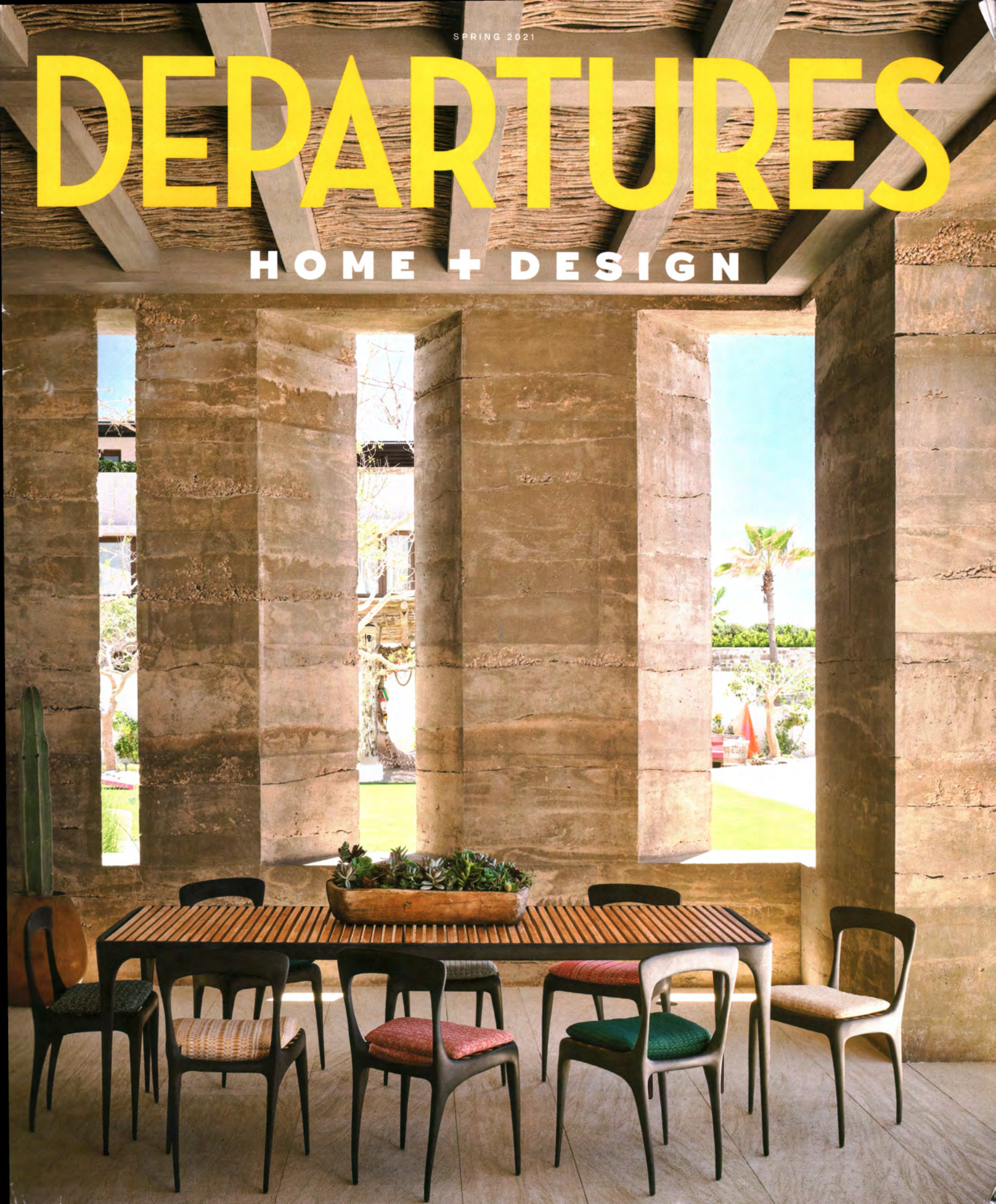


SPRING 2021

DEPARTURES

HOME + DESIGN



Wonder on the Water

Bucking the bigger-is-better trend, this yacht is a study in bespoke details, fine finishes, and brilliant artworks that combine to create fathoms of nautical style.

by Pilar Viladas. Photographs by Paolo Petrignani



The *Club M*'s exteriors and architecture were conceived by Horacio Bozzo. Above: The main salon's silk rug was hand-knotted in Tibet.

"FOR YACHTS," says Achille Salvagni, "the interior designer has to be much more than a decorator." Salvagni is known for sophisticated, contemporary spaces that mix glamour and comfort in equal measure—whether in a Fifth Avenue apartment, a London townhouse, a Palm Beach condominium, or a yacht.

Since his first nautical effort won the best-interior prize at the 2006 Cannes Boat Show, Salvagni has designed more than 30. He is often brought into a project when the yacht's architect is still at work so he can fine-tune floor plans for a client's needs and create furniture specifically for them—sofas and armchairs that have a lower center of gravity, for



Left: In the primary cabin, the closet doors are finished in a silver-nitrate lacquer and the door handles are cast in bronze. Below: The outdoor-friendly upholstery fabric used on the aft deck is from Tempotest.

example—to be comfortable when seas are not smooth. These pieces became such a hit with Salvagni's clients that they asked for dry-land versions, which led to a collection of furniture, lighting, and accessories. Two signature items, the low, elegant Vittoria chair and the Spider chandelier, originated this way. Both are on display at Achille Salvagni Atelier, his gallery in London's Mayfair district, and at Maison Gerard gallery in New York.

One of Salvagni's latest seafaring interiors is for the 131-foot-long *Club M*, which was designed by the renowned yacht architect Horacio Bozzo and built by Baglietto, a shipyard that was founded in 1854 in La Spezia, Italy. It is relatively modest in size for a superyacht. Salvagni's client, a real estate developer based in Florida and New York, says he didn't want "a museum or a showpiece. This is our second home, and it had to be comfortable

and welcoming." Still, as Salvagni puts it, the owner "didn't want a trophy yacht in terms of length, but in terms of quality," he says. "Every detail is curated."

You see this the moment you step onto the main deck, which includes the main salon (living and dining areas), galley, powder room, primary bedroom and bath, and a fully equipped office (an essential for the husband—he and his wife spent seven weeks at sea last year). A small foyer, where a pair of blue velvet chairs, designed, like everything on the boat, by Salvagni, flank a niche lined in white leather, opens into the main salon, which has a limed-oak ceiling and walls as well as panoramic windows. It was conceived, Salvagni says, as "a place to escape from terrestrial problems," with cave-like "craters" in the ceiling and a bark-like surface for the wood dining table. The sinuous, cocoon-like custom sofas, covered in Egyptian cotton in front and gray suede in back, also strike a soft note, as do the rounded corners where the walls and ceiling meet. "There are no 90-degree angles anywhere," Salvagni says. A niche on one wall, lined in glossy, dark eucalyptus—a nod to old-school yacht interiors—contains a wall-mounted cabinet with undulating, gold-leafed doors and a





bronze top. The same themes carry into the primary bedroom and bath.

Salvagni's client had definite opinions about the boat's design, and they ran counter to current yacht trends. Not only did he prefer a relatively smaller boat, he also wanted one with a vertical bow, rather than a now-fashionable, sharply angled one. And also per the client's request, in contrast to the multiple decks found on many similar vessels today, the *Club M* has only two full decks—the main deck and

one above, with areas for outdoor lounging and dining. Salvagni's inspired touches include a wooden side table shaped like an old-school trunk and a bar with overlapping circular cutouts—homage to the 1960s avant-garde artist Paolo Scheggi. "The real usage of a yacht is not inside, but outside, so you can enjoy the open space in shorts, rather than a tuxedo," Salvagni says.



The client calls Salvagni, who is also designing a Manhattan apartment for the couple and working with him on condominium projects, "a maestro." The designer, on the other hand, likens his work to that of a chef. "You don't always see all the ingredients in a meal," he says, "but when you taste it, you can appreciate everything that has gone into it."



Left: The main salon's dining table has a lacewood-veneer top. Above, from left: Stone steps lead up to the guest rooms; velvet-upholstered chairs at the entrance to the main deck.