



Elaldrea+ has 4,000ft<sup>2</sup> of exterior space including the upper deck (left) and the sundeck bar (below). Bottom: based on Benetti's 700 platform, she is a 160ft yacht below 500GT



To small children, the shallow pool on board *Elaldrea+* seems like an ideal ocean – briny and buoyant but seaweed- and jellyfish-free. As they splash in this protected environment, adults can witness the fun from the comfort of a large and springy sunpad close enough for them to intervene if play gets a bit too rambunctious. This detail and many more were imagined and sketched out on paper long before the first steel was ever cut.

Everything about this thoroughly thought-out 160ft Benetti is about family, including its hard-to-pronounce moniker, a compilation of names. The owner commissioned the boat after a long, happy relationship with his 115ft Benetti Classic, *Elaldrea*. Launched in 2002, the owner's first Benetti was a semi-custom

yacht built in fiberglass. Her successor, a full-displacement vessel in steel and aluminum with transatlantic range, zero-speed stabilizers, a beach club and two pools, clearly deserved the “plus” sign.

The move to a bigger, more complex yacht was a natural evolution for an owner who has enjoyed boats for many years and loves to spend time on board. It was not a rushed decision, according to the owner's long-time captain, but the result of a patient multi-year gestation. “We use the yacht mainly with the family, and since the family is growing, so is the yacht,” says the owner, who started his relationship with boating “with fast and noisy offshore boats.” Being able to cater for the family was consideration number one but, as he says, “the second and no less important reason [for going up in size] was comfort.”

*Elaldrea+* is plenty comfortable, a custom yacht built at Italian superyacht builder Benetti's Viareggio shipyard, where I first spotted it. It grabbed my attention with its linear features, accented with spectacular silver and pearlescent white paint by DuPont. A couple of birds fluttered around the mast and domes as if to direct attention to their height and silver sheen.

The exterior look was an important starting point. “The owner liked the Benetti brand, but he wanted a different design,” says Horacio Bozzo, who conceived the lines and layout. “*Elaldrea+* was designed for a sophisticated owner looking for an elegant, timeless and contemporary yacht. Essential and pure lines were the soul of this ambitious project, where the demands of design embrace functionality.”

One example of this philosophy is the prow area. The bow stretches far forward of the waterline and the bulb below. It's a classic style but beyond that it has allowed Bozzo to create the child-friendly pool area and preserve a

# ALL SYSTEMS GROW

*As families get bigger, so do superyacht owners' needs. Thankfully, Benetti had just the platform upon which one such owner could build his custom dream, Elaldrea+*

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PHOTOGRAPHY Jim Raycroft



good-sized technical deck where a rescue tender resides when the yacht is in private use. If and when the yacht is put into charter service, commercial regulations mandate the rescue tender be stowed elsewhere, so Bozzo planned for that eventuality.

“When the boat is registered for private use, the rescue boat can be stowed forward of the collision bulkhead, but in case they want to charter the boat one day, the rescue boat fits inside [the splash pool],” he explains. One of the sockets, normally used to hold poles supporting a sunshade, can accommodate a temporary crane that lifts the rescue boat in and out of the pool.

Bozzo, founder of Axis Group Yacht Design, came to yacht design via engineering. “When I decided to do this at the age of 16, I thought that it was normal to become an engineer and naval architect

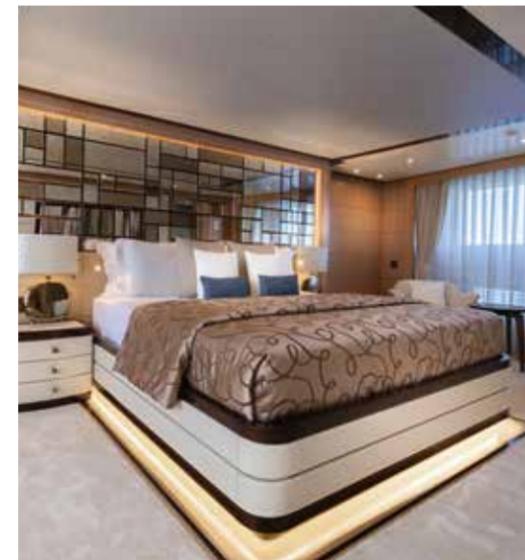
to design boats; later I realized it was not always the case,” he says with a laugh. It is evident that he enjoys the challenge of solving puzzles as much as coming up with attractive shapes or a stunning paint scheme.

In this case the big challenge was to define areas for three generations who enjoy spending time together but have different interests – and to do so within an existing naval platform under 50 meters (164ft) and below 500 gross tonnes. “We love the different areas that Horacio created for us,” the owner says, “in particular the indoor-outdoor feeling of the beach club and the different exterior areas that give us multiple options to stay during the day.”

The captain reports that everyone uses the boat as they anticipated they would. The teenagers spend a lot of time at the transom, in the large beach club,



Above: the owner's suite balcony in open mode. Opposite page: chairs by Poltrona Frau frame a custom dining table (top left), add color to the sky lounge (top right, bottom right), and the main salon (middle right), as well as comfort to the stateroom (middle left)



*“The owner liked the Benetti brand, but he wanted a different design”*



### Owner's suite balcony

Nice to have but seldom used, superyacht balconies are becoming a little more user-friendly. The owner's balcony on *Elaldrea+* (top left) was made by Italian nautical engineering specialist Fratelli Canalicchio. Its upper section is a window that opens upwards, while below a section of superstructure slides outwards from the yacht's side, complete with teak sole and automatic handrail system, all deployed at the touch of a button. The window can be used on its own, and for added effect the shipyard has installed sliding glass panels to cover the opening to prevent air conditioning escaping or bugs coming in, but preserve the full view as if the window was open.





the yacht's logo in afyon miele and sahara noir. The owners chose it to emphasize the contour of the stairs, a sculptural shape that is finished with a paint mimicking bronze. More metal, including stainless-steel details in the furniture and hardware from Dnd Martinelli, is used in the interior - but the result never looks harsh. Panels of silk framed in wood and buttery leather, used in cabins primarily, add softness to the ensemble. In addition

swimming and enjoying watersports. The smaller children enjoy the saltwater pool and a sixth cabin on the bridge deck, which has been fitted with a large comfortable sofa and a PlayStation. Adults favor the sundeck, where a second spa pool is located.

A great feature here is a multiple-panel glass door located between a free-standing bar and the pool. It can be closed in sections to shelter the deck from wind. Another favorite adult space is the upper deck, with large bar tops able to accommodate dishes served family style, a large television and a pair of custom-built card tables.

With so much experience in boating, the owner was keen on taking a full part in the development of the project. "He was very involved," says Bozzo, who visited his homes and met him at the shipyard on at least six occasions. It was the yacht's home dock that determined the portside positioning of the balcony in the master suite.

The owners worked directly with Benetti's interiors department on the elegant, grown-up decor. The primary wood is a light tanganika accented with darker walnut trim. Guests entering from the starboard lobby or the aft deck step on to a marble floor that features

to a few custom pieces, such as the coffee and dining tables in the main salon, the owners chose pieces from famous Italian labels such as Poltrona Frau and Giorgetti. The only obvious concession to the youngest generation is the games room decorated with lively, sturdy fabrics and wall coverings from Romo.

The needs of this multi-generational family pushed Bozzo and the Benetti technical department to the limits of the allowed volume on what Benetti refers to as its 700 platform to accommodate 12 guests, nine crew and large parties at the dock. *Elaldrea+* is 499GT and boasts six guest staterooms, all en suite, and 4,000 square feet of exterior decks.

Like most shipyards that build large yachts in metal, Benetti has developed a number of platforms to construct boats that are entirely custom from the main deck up. Drawing a parallel with the car world, Nick Bischoff, Benetti's country manager for the Americas, explains: "You take a platform, a chassis like a 7 Series BMW, and you put something creative on top of it."

"I think [Horacio Bozzo] did an amazing job with the profile and the look of the boat, but you could have something completely different. What makes it a Benetti is the logo on the side and the



### Sundeck spa pool

The sundeck spa pool (above) empties into two tanks below the VIP stateroom, with a total capacity of 925 gallons. The tanks are heated, keeping the water warm overnight. It then takes 12 minutes to fill the pool in the morning. The shallow upper deck pool is designed for children and can be filled with seawater. The pumps can filter out the jellyfish.



### Beach club

There is no coming back from the beach club - everyone wants one. On this size of boat, however, it can be a small and cavernous space, says Horacio Bozzo, who chose the area as his favorite feature on *Elaldrea+*. "It gives you the feeling of being outside in a shaded area rather than in an enclosed space," he says. "We achieved this by opening the space to a huge swim platform, emphasizing an indoor-outdoor feeling by adding skylights and ample windows in the transom door, and keeping the floor as level as possible." Even the cleats recess in the 248ft<sup>2</sup> platform and three small steps lead to the interior portion of the beach club, which is furnished with comfortable furniture.



*Allocating spaces to different generations works well on board Elaldrea+, with teenagers loving the beach club (above) and*

*large bathing platform (left) and grown-ups liking the protected and spacious sundeck (top right, middle and opposite page top left)*



The upper deck seating area (left), which can be shaded, is immediately aft of the covered outside dining area (below left). Below: the main deck aft



*“It’s very sea kind, it rides wonderfully and its fuel economy is unbelievable”*

made-in-Italy philosophy of all the beautiful accouterments inside the boat.”

The use of a platform presents several advantages. “The client is sure to get a well-proven hull,” says Ferdinando Pilli, custom engineering manager at Benetti. There is no guessing game or tweaking period, and matters of noise, vibration and performance have already been addressed. “The major problems will be avoided, and at the same time the boat can be like no other,” he says. It’s also a time saver, since all the engineering, CFD analysis and tank testing have been done.

Elaldrea+ was designed and built in two and a half years and delivered in October 2018. Modifications to the existing platform were significant, with the addition of a 250-square-foot bathing platform plus two large pools. “The challenge was to keep the same volume, and to not modify the hull or other important parameters for stability, seaworthiness and so on,” Pilli says.

That challenge was met with flying

colors. The captain, who ran the previous Elaldrea, says the larger boat is more fuel-efficient, although they both have MTU 2000 series engines. Of course, as he points out, 16 years separate the two and technology has evolved greatly. “I’m so impressed with the stability of the boat. It’s very sea kind, it rides wonderfully and its fuel economy is unbelievable,” he says. “We’re burning 170 liters [45 gallons] an hour and we’re doing 14 knots [with one generator]. It’s wonderful,” he says.

Straight out of the yard, he took the yacht to Barcelona and then Palma. From there, Elaldrea+ was loaded on to a transport ship to Martinique and did the normally rough trek northward to the Bahamas. It’s the kind of trip that can make

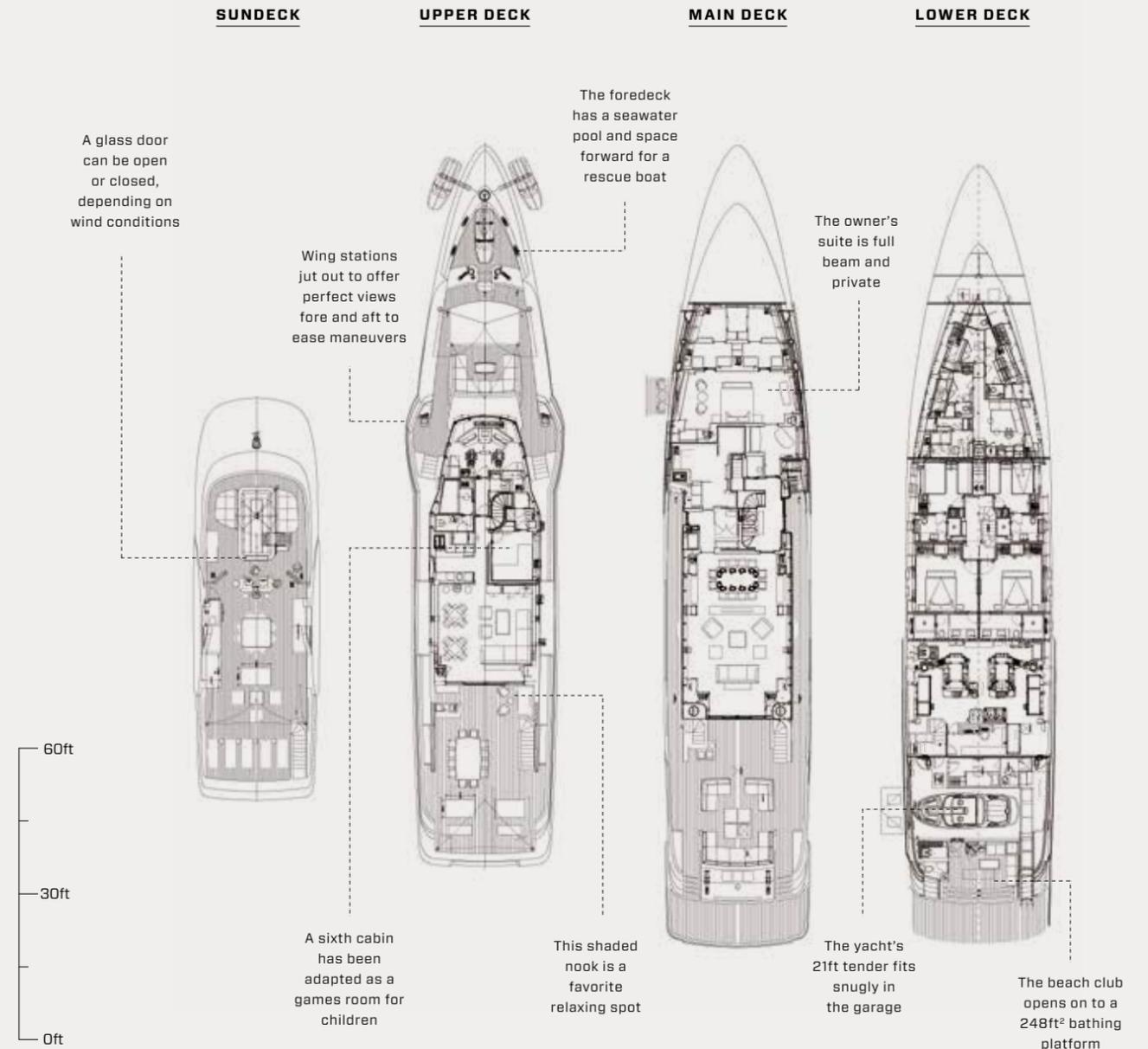
things like stabilizers a much-appreciated bonus. “The big stabilizers they put on the Naiads, big fins, are wonderful,” the captain says.

On a run from Viareggio to La Spezia with the owners on board and in relatively rough seas, he kept the water in the sundeck spa pool. “We didn’t spill a drop,” he enthuses. Making a big splash – that’s the job of the children in the family. ■



ELALDREA+

BENETTI



**LOA** 160'  
**LWL** 132' 6"  
**Beam** 29' 10"  
**Draft** (full load) 8'  
**Gross tonnage** 499GT

**Engines**  
2 x MTU 12V 2000 M72  
**Speed max/cruise**  
14/12 knots  
**Range at 10 knots**  
4,000nm  
**Generators**  
2 x Kohler 125kW  
1 x Kohler 80kW

**Fuel capacity**  
15,850 gallons  
**Freshwater capacity**  
2,113 gallons  
**Tender**  
1 x 21ft Castoldi Jet Tender  
**Owners/guests** 12

**Crew** 9-10  
**Construction**  
Steel hull and aluminum superstructure  
**Classification**  
RINA, LY3 Certificate of Compliance

**Naval architecture**  
Azimut Benetti – Benetti Technical Dept  
**Exterior styling**  
Horacio Bozzo Design  
**Interior design**  
Benetti Style Department

**Builder/year**  
Benetti/2018  
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