



A PLACE FOR ENTERTAINMENT
AND RELAXATION

Aquarius by Autoban and Mengi Yay Yachts, shortlisted
in the International Yacht and Aviation Awards 2017
Interior Design - Power Yacht Category.





“APPROACHING EACH PROJECT INITIALLY AS STORYTELLERS, THEIR WORK SEEKS TO UNDERSTAND THE CHARACTER AND CONTEXT OF EACH PROJECT.”

Turkish shipyard Mengi Yay's latest delivery is the 45-metre yacht Aquarius, which was launched in June 2016 and since then she has been cruising around the Mediterranean.

Aquarius is a tri-deck displacement yacht built with a wooden laminated epoxy hull and engineered by long-time collaborators Ginton Naval Architects. Her overall exterior design is by Oğuzhan Güler, and it is characterised by sleek and straight lines drawing the eye to her almost vertical prow. Aquarius' interiors are the work of Autoban & BTA Design, which has drawn the vessel's internal volume of 300 gross tonnes into beautiful spaces.

Indoor areas include a spacious full-beam main saloon featuring large windows and twin fold-down bulwarks on either side, which offer very good views. The fold-down bulwarks are just off the formal dining room and enhances the dining experience when at anchor.

With exterior entertainment and relaxation areas being a major focus of the design one of the most remarkable features onboard has got to be the full-beam, three way-opening aft beach club. With port and starboard fold out sections and an extendable bathing platform and the sundeck featuring a large sun pad aft on the hard top, this stylish beach club can be opened up on the three sides when at anchor. A space such as this is more common on much larger yachts, but Mengi Yay and designer Oğuzhan Güler managed to create a luxurious and well thought out beach environment that will set Aquarius apart from other yachts in this size range. Accommodation onboard is composed of a master suite located forward on the main deck, four guest cabins and four crew cabins for a total staff of eight.

The master suite is spacious and is found forward on main deck, it is not quite full beam throughout, as two private fixed balconies, one on each side, take up some of the space. This sacrifice is certainly worth the interior space lost when considering the view and fresh sea breeze that can be enjoyed without having to leave the comfort of one's suite. The four additional ensuite guest cabins can be found on the lower deck.

The aft bridge deck can be arranged to host a tender or store other water sport equipment or toys. A couple of 1,450hp CAT C32 engines power the vessel, allowing for a top speed of 15 knots. Cruising speed of 12 knots will deliver the maximum cruising range from the 33,000 litre fuel tanks.

Autoban's combination of light and dark wood with beige hues give the interior a contemporary classic feel. This is starkly contrasted with the ultra-modern style of the main bathroom, here Autoban have kept it simple black and white with an ornate marble effect over the walls and the floors making the entire room feel luxurious. The main salon benefits from large windows, allowing natural light to flood the room and further enhance the cosy, warm feeling that Autoban have created in this space. On the upper deck, Autoban have created the ultimate luxury of having a hot tub near the bow of the yacht – this is strategically placed next to a screen where the inhabitants can play their favourite films and truly entertain their guests.

Autoban's favourite aspect of the project was the generous interior spaces that they were given, this allowed them to create an inner shell which served as the foundation of the design. The design works well because every single item and detail is custom designed for the client by taking into account his lifestyle and way of living. Autoban was founded by Seyhan Özdemir and Sefer Çağlar in 2003, they are an internationally renowned firm based in Istanbul, Turkey. Their works range from architectural design, interior design and product design.

As interior designers Autoban respond with sensitivity and innovation to every client project, seeking to understand its history and shape its future without assumption or replication. Autoban celebrate form: they are fascinated by uncommon materials, and common materials used in uncommon ways. They skilfully and instinctively push materials to reveal their full potential. Autoban enhance function, they design for people and for the enjoyment of the environment that comes from its efficient and intelligent design. Their cardinal rules are to design a functional space which will inspire its inhabitants. Autoban creates character rich designs that imprint themselves on the people who enjoy them, and spaces that foster memorable interactions between users.

Approaching each project initially as storytellers, their work seeks to understand the character and context of each project. Each element is informed by a uniquely space-centric approach, blending sophistication, and minimal forms with rich materials.