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Delta's**

156-foot *slojo*
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Delta's 156-foot *slojo* is bound for adventure

easygoing

STORY BY CYNTHIA KAUL PHOTOGRAPHY BY KRISTINA STROBEL



This page: Shelves in the main salon showcase an evolving display of artifacts from the journey. Carpets and soft coverings have intricate patterns inspired by Asian and African textiles.

Opposite: The skylounge provides easy conversation areas and a bar, plus a venue for games and media. The dining salon, top, has a more formal, Oriental ambiance.

Artifact details abound throughout the yacht, bottom.



The quest for new horizons has fired humankind's imagination and enterprise for thousands of years, and ocean craft used to achieve this quest continue to evolve and inspire. Built for the timeless purpose of maritime discovery, Delta's 156-foot (47.55-meter) composite yacht *slojo* is well suited to the task.

The boat's name reflects the owners' mission and philosophy: to savor life slowly and to enjoy nature and the people along the way. They desired a shallow-draft yacht with transoceanic range, for travel to premier dive spots around the world—a modern classic to accommodate guests and a range of recreational equipment with ease. Having admired a variety of Delta designs, they chose to build a custom yacht, modified from the same hull as *Mr. Terrible* and *Gran Finale*. Delta's design team delivered a strong, lightweight beauty with outstanding technical performance, as well as high marks in style, soundproofing, and stabilizing and navigation technology. With many innovations for dive support, and primo gathering spots indoors and out, *slojo* is proving to be an efficient and comfortable yacht for the mission.

Slojo's owners fell in love with the people and reefs in the South Pacific, and had witnessed the degradation of reefs and marine ecosystems in more populated areas. They are dedicated to sponsoring and promoting marine conservation, and, as members of the International SeaKeepers Society, they equipped *slojo* with a SeaKeeper 1000 water sampling unit that contributes data to the society's global monitoring system.

Tom Stringer Design Partners of Chicago, Illinois, with whom the owners have shared a long history of architectural projects and voyages, designed *slojo's* interior. The yacht's elegant, yet informal layout is furnished and accessorized with many ethnographic treasures from those trips, featuring textile influences from Africa and Asia in the fabrics and carpets commissioned by Stringer for the boat. With a view to keeping the design fresh and relevant, the yacht is designed with versatility to accommodate new collections from journeys to come.

Slojo abounds in appealing gathering spaces, with the aft deck being a case in point. From the boarding landing on the stern, the deck steps up to a broad swim cockpit, a pleasant visual progression to the main deck a few steps up. This swim deck serves many purposes. There is a comfortable blue and white settee spanning the space between the two gates for relaxing under way, or for getting ready for an expedition. To port and starboard of the central steps, recessed in the full-width curved bulwark, are large individualized guest lockers for watersports gear and a lift hatch accessing the engine control room and dive shop, for easy refilling of tanks. These active folks also enjoy kayaking, waveboarding, paddleboarding and kiteboarding, and gear for those pursuits is stored there for easy deployment.

In the sun-kissed tropics especially, the aft deck will provide an excellent venue for meals and entertainment. Allowing for future considerations of sun and shade in the southern hemisphere, the fixed table and teak lounging area can be expanded and changed side to side. The >





Top: Texture and light create a comfortable grace in the owner's stateroom. Right: The master bath is enhanced by a fabulous double shower wall of Onice Fantastico granite.

space is warmed by infrared ceiling heaters and lit by Stringer's unique chrome and glass "tiki torches."

Two custom-built Nautica tenders are kept aloft on the boat deck, along with mountain bikes, longboards and assorted workout gear. The 24-foot Kevlar dive tender is noteworthy for a handy tube-mounted side door, which, when dropped down on its hinge, becomes a ladder with two in-built steps—a great innovation for diving as well as beach landings.

Slojo's main salon is dramatic with panoramic windows and a gallery wall displaying art and artifacts in a quadratic grid of lighted glass and anigre cubes. Simple, strong furnishings in a richly textured palette of sand, ivory and paisley form two seating areas around a tortoise lacquer coffee table and a woven leather ottoman. Guarding the aft entrance are a pair of Chinese Tang Dynasty earth spirit pottery pieces, circa 900 A.D. Floors are covered in hand-tufted wool carpets with an African pattern, set into teak borders.

The gallery's pattern of squares is repeated in the classic dining salon with Oriental-themed cabinetry effecting a pleasing marriage of geometry and art. Complementing this motif is an oval dining table of figured walnut inlaid with a series of overlapping ellipsoids in anigre. While the owners professed a preference for straight lines over curves, the elliptical symbol shows up in portholes, chandeliers, occasional tables and design details elsewhere. Most of the interior joinery is constructed of anigre, with accent woods of walnut, teak and Mozambique.

The owner's stateroom forward portrays the preference for classic lines and thoughtful detail. Walnut furnishings



with leather panels and textural weaves are set on a luxuriant carpet, with a serene seating arrangement to port in tones of copper and ivory. Large windows shed light by day into this cabin, and by night the space is lit by handsome table lamps—stacked sculptural squares in silver leaf over bronze. All the staterooms have iPod docks and screens to access the Kaleidescape entertainment system. In this case, the plasma screens drop down from the overheads.

Within the master bath, the double walk-in shower features an arresting wall of Onice Fantastico stone in earth tones of sand, ochre, rust and ivory. Paloma Bianca limestone is used for the surfaces and sinks, and a silver leaf bronze vanity bench offers a note of contrast. Doors to the water closets provide visibility and privacy with attractive laminated glass panels interlayered with hand-woven copper screening.

Providing a forum for owner and guest photography, the designer installed miniature galleries on the walls of the





water closets aboard. These simple light wood photo frames can be opened easily to mount an evolving display of photos. Digital photo printing equipment on board furnishes the wherewithal to pursue and execute photography with ease.

Delta's design team excels in providing generous traffic flow in confluence areas, as in the starboard foyer, which seamlessly connects the main living areas on all decks with the galley and salon, dayheads and a service bar on the main deck. Located portside, the stainless steel galley is designed with good natural light and ample prep and service space. The central peninsula features induction burners and an infrared warming tray, as well as a Miele steam oven, all of which assist the chef in cooking and keeping food hot without overheating the galley.

The appreciation for staff is evident in the space and amenities designed into the crew quarters and

technical areas. The owners met and assembled this crew in the course of their travels, and the relationship they share makes for an extraordinary team. The team includes dive masters and people with years of sailing, cooking, design and engineering experience worldwide.

Guests are accommodated in four staterooms, which open from a U-shaped foyer on the lower deck. These cabins feature simple, beautiful joinery with leather upholstered headboards designed to accommodate a slip of graphic textile as new fabrics are discovered along the way. Each cabin has a desk/vanity with a plasma screen and iPod dock concealed behind the mirror, and the walls are graced by celestial-themed paintings as a focal point. Delta's excellent soundproofing system uses high-privacy treatments between cabins as well as a "floated" joinery system with sound-absorbing buffers behind linings to moderate engine noise.

The guest baths are quite lovely, with the outboard shower walls clad in tortoise-finish glass tiles by Waterworks. Cabinets have mirrored interiors, for ease of use, and all the plumbing fixtures are simple and good looking. Three of the staterooms have king-size beds, one of which converts to twins. The fourth cabin, starboard forward, has a more playful décor, with twin beds end to end to accommodate younger guests. This was originally planned as an exercise cabin, but the owners subsequently expressed a preference for exercising outdoors.

Back up on the skybridge, the pilothouse commands the ship and offers another vantage point for observing the view and operations. Yachtronics has perfected the interface of navigation and communications systems, and *slojo* benefits from this vast convergence of digital information displayed on five 17-inch monitors. The dash pad, with deep storage underneath, is »

This page: Guests are accommodated in four handsome staterooms set around an oval foyer on the lower deck. The cabins benefit from Delta's advanced soundproofing technology.





Above: Versatile and appealing, the multi-level aft deck is a staging area for grand entertainment, easy relaxation or diving adventures.

upholstered in dark red textured leather, as is the banquette encircling a teak table. The rails, wheel and captain's chairs are a rich chocolate color, with wall panels of woven horsehair. At the rear of the banquette, a plasma screen can display data from any of the ship's onboard systems. Aft the bridge, the captain's stateroom is a room with a view and pleasing workability, with a large win-

dow and a charming antique poster of New York harbor framing the queen berth.

The skylounge radiates warmth, from the large signature windows and the warm color palette of chocolate, brown sugar, orange and hot pink stripe. It has proven to be a frequent and favored setting for many gatherings en route. On the port side, there is a comfortable conversation area and a walnut inlaid corner bar with saddle leather stools. Aft to starboard, four orange velvet chairs encircle an interesting games table fashioned after one seen in Paris. One of many pieces that comes with a story, the lacquered sharkskin top reverses to kidskin and removes to reveal an inset backgammon

game. More artifacts from the journey include a candelabra of interlocked horns from Tanzania and an antique sterling silver ice bucket by Cartier featured on the bar. This piece was spotted by the designer in an antique store in Atlanta, Georgia, noticed initially because it features the burgee of the New York Yacht Club (the owner is a member). Upon closer inspection, it became apparent that it was engraved to commemorate the 1920s passage of a group of friends on a yacht, down the west coast of Central America and across the South Pacific to Bora Bora. By chance, that is the route that these friends will take on their first major voyage together.

Up top, the sun deck is a bastion of barefoot luxury, another favorite place to be on board. Crew reports that it accommodates multitudes with ease, featuring a covered, curved bar offset to port with stools of buttery beige vinyl, loungers and a spa, and a mutable variety of seating areas. Solar shades of two different strengths extending over the fore and aft sections ensure that all can partake of this sunny retreat.

The yacht has been cruising non-stop since her launch without incident or delay, bound for the Pacific islands that inspired this mission. Early reports are positive, with the owners and crew extolling the vessel's performance, reliability and livability. The story is just beginning for a voyage that will certainly include all kinds of adventure, acquaintances and a commitment to marine conservation. With *slojo*, Delta has launched yet another successful, beautiful vessel to carry this expedition seaward. □

READER'S RESOURCE

Delta
1608 South 96th Street
Seattle, Washington 98108
tel: 206-763-2983
fax: 206-762-2627
www.deltamaine.com

BUILDER: Delta
YEAR LAUNCHED: 2008
NAVAL ARCHITECTURE: Delta Design Group
EXTERIOR STYLING: Delta Design Group
INTERIOR SPACE PLANNING:

Delta Design Group
INTERIOR DESIGN: Tom Stringer Inc.
LOA: 156' (47.55 m)
LWL: 138'4" (42.16 m)
BEAM: 28'8" (8.74 m)
(molded and extreme)

DRAFT: 7'7" (2.31 m)
(half load)
DISPLACEMENT: 392 tn
(half load)
ENGINES: 2x Cat 3508B,
1,300 hp @ 1835 rpm
MAX. SPEED: 15.5 kn

CRUISE SPEED: 14.9 kn
FUEL CAPACITY: 14,600 U.S. gal
(55,270 L)
RANGE: 3,500 nm @ 12 kn
GENERATORS: 2x Northern Lights, 99 kW
STABILIZERS: Quantum QC 1800 ZeroSpeed
BOW THRUSTER: American Bow Thruster, 110 hp
FRESHWATER CAPACITY: 2,200 U.S. gal (8,330 L)
WATERMAKERS: 2x Sea Recovery Coral Sea, 2,800 U.S. gal (10,600 L) per day
AIR CONDITIONING: Aqua-Air, 30 tn
PAINT: Awlgrip (Flag Blue)
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL: Composite
OWNER/GUEST ACCOMMODATIONS: Master suite plus 4 guest cabins
CREW: 9
CLASSIFICATION: A1 #A1 Yachting Service AMS

