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# HOME SWEET YACHT

For this cruising couple moving up in yacht size, Outer Reef's first 820 model was the perfect platform to create their home at sea.

Words - Risa Merl

Photography - Billy Black



When the owners of *Barbara Sue II*, the first Outer Reef 820 Cockpit Motoryacht, invited family to see their new yacht, their guests did a double take.

There was something strangely familiar about this boat, and it didn't take long for the wife's sister to put her finger on it. "When Barbara's sister walked into the salon for the first time, she laughed and said, 'It looks just like your house!'" says the husband, whose yacht is named in honor of his wife, Barbara.

It was the best compliment the owners could have received. Their brief to builder Outer Reef Yachts was to create a home at sea, and not just any home – quite specifically, they wanted an extension of their house on the west coast of Florida. This was accomplished in the warm, inviting décor, an open layout designed for entertaining and an abundance of personal touches, which is the hallmark of making any house a home.

The owners worked hand-in-hand with Outer Reef's design team to create their seaborne abode. While the interior is classic and cozy, it is by no means commonplace. Trunks are used for the coffee and end tables in the salon, the settee is custom-made from buffalo hides and the sconces are genuine antiques.

To say these owners are experienced is a bit of an understatement. They have been yachting or sailing for pretty much their entire lives. "I think I had my first boat at eight [years old]," says the husband, who describes his

yachting philosophy as "old school." He grew up on his grandfather's 1920s 70-foot Trumpy-style motor yacht, which inspired his admiration for classic styling. "I think Outer Reef has kept to this [style] to some extent."

Indeed, the first 82-footer from Outer Reef has the timeless good looks that define the builder's classic series, with a simulated plank hull and white paint job that's complemented by modern-day picture box windows. *Barbara Sue II* has something granddad's classic yacht probably didn't: an ample cockpit to host the couple's fishing and diving adventures. This was a wish list item among the many must-haves: a dayhead, engineered wood floors, 20-foot-plus beam and, in the husband's words, "an awesome navigation and A/V system." As he and his wife are owner-operators, these systems are integral to their enjoyment and ease of use.

Their previous yacht was a Kroger Express 52, so the jump up to the 80-foot range was a big one, and not a size that was chosen by chance. After careful consideration, 82 feet proved to be the sweet spot. "This size is about as large as we feel that we can handle ourselves," says the husband. "We didn't really want to go so large, but to get everything we wanted, it is where we ended up. So far, my wife and I have been able to handle the boat just fine thanks to great thrusters and remote stations."

"They are cruisers who spend a lot of time living on board; they didn't want anything sterile or ultra-modern, just something very relaxed," says Jeff Drucek, president





and CEO of Outer Reef Yachts. “And they are big entertainers; they wanted open, flowing spaces and the ability to entertain twenty to thirty people on board.”

Sitting on the aft deck, you can see straight to the pilothouse, but not before your eye stops at the undisputed wow factor — a massive country kitchen, the likes of which you’ve never seen on an 82-footer. And at the center of the galley is a giant island, where guests will inevitably crowd around during parties.

“Another important thing was to also have the forward settee,” says the husband, “so we’d have a nice dining area as well as a comfortable place to keep the captain company while cruising down below.” This is a pared-down steering station as the owners spend most of their time at the wheel up on the flybridge, a space that is also suited for entertaining with multiple settees, a bar and an open deck that carries the Boston Whaler tender.

Another showstopper is the staircase that leads up top from the galley. Designed in-house by the yard, the wengé bannister is beautifully curvaceous but also practical, easy to grip while underway and without sharp corners to dig hips into during a rough sea state.

Belowdecks there are three homey staterooms: a VIP forward, a twin-bed cabin and the master, which one enters through grand double doors. Far from standard for Outer



The size of the galley belies the yacht's 82-foot length. The huge island, finished in raw granite is a great place for guests to gather around.

Reef, it's only the second time in a dozen years that double doors have been used this way. “There are no two Outer Reefs that are identical, and a majority are drastically different,” Drucek points out.

The master has a couple of items that topped the wife's must-haves: a bathtub and a laundry room in the walk-in closet. The latter request concerned Drucek. “We get so many owners who say it's their last boat, they never want another one, but I have heard that before!” he says. Rather than dissuade owners from personalized options, Drucek thinks ahead. To retain resale value, the laundry room is designed so it is also accessible from the foyer. If the owners ever do part with *Barbara Sue II*, the machines can simply be turned around to face the foyer and be accessed by crew, and the closet can revert to being a closet. “It's easier to do it in the build than after the fact,” says Drucek.

The laundry room countertops are made from recycled beer bottles and wine glasses. “This product was a little bit of wild card, but doing laundry can be drudgery and to make it a little less so, we had fun with this countertop material,” says Deborah Manzi, Outer Reef's interior designer.

There is particular attention paid to materials on *Barbara Sue II*, which is highlighted by one big must-not: nothing shiny. No stainless steel or chrome was allowed anywhere inside the boat, and the stonework is raw, not polished to a gloss.

“A chrome finish is prevalent on any yacht, so this was a challenge,” says Manzi, who had to eliminate these finishes from the cabinetry, door hardware and even the plumbing. “We used an oil-rubbed bronze finish; however, in the guest heads we went with brushed nickel,” Manzi says. Hinges, hatch pulls and appliances had to be specially sourced to meet this brief. The one flash of

stainless you'll see comes from the Stidd helm seats.

“This ended up becoming a custom build,” Drucek says, adding that he considers Outer Reef to be a “semi-custom to custom builder. This goes far beyond interior appointments and right down into the shape of the yacht itself.”

Outer Reef employs an open-ended mold build technique, which allows great flexibility in the size of yacht offered. Three sets of molds allow owners to task Outer Reef with creating the exact boat that is right for them. The first size range is 58 to 63 feet, then the 65 series can deliver yachts from 65 to 70 feet, and the 80 series offers yachts from 73 to 86 feet.

This 820 is the first model of this size because that was the ideal boat for the owners of *Barbara Sue II*. Their requirements were to cruise at 10 to 12 knots as efficiently as possible, and the power is packaged to suit with twin 750-hp John Deere 6135 diesel engines with ZF transmissions. An added nod to efficiency comes in the form of solar panels found on the hardtop that are used to charge the house batteries.

For further proof that this yacht will be used as a home, just look at the crew quarters, which are specified to the same level as the boat itself. If *Barbara Sue II* is the main house, then this is the guesthouse. These quarters will not host full-time crew but instead have been claimed by the owners' college-age daughter. Accessed from both inside and out, and with a well-stocked kitchen and comfortable lounge, it's the perfect spot for a young adult to get away from the family while still being close.

Some say there is no place like home, but for the owners of *Barbara Sue II*, perhaps the saying should be: “Home is where the yacht is.” ■



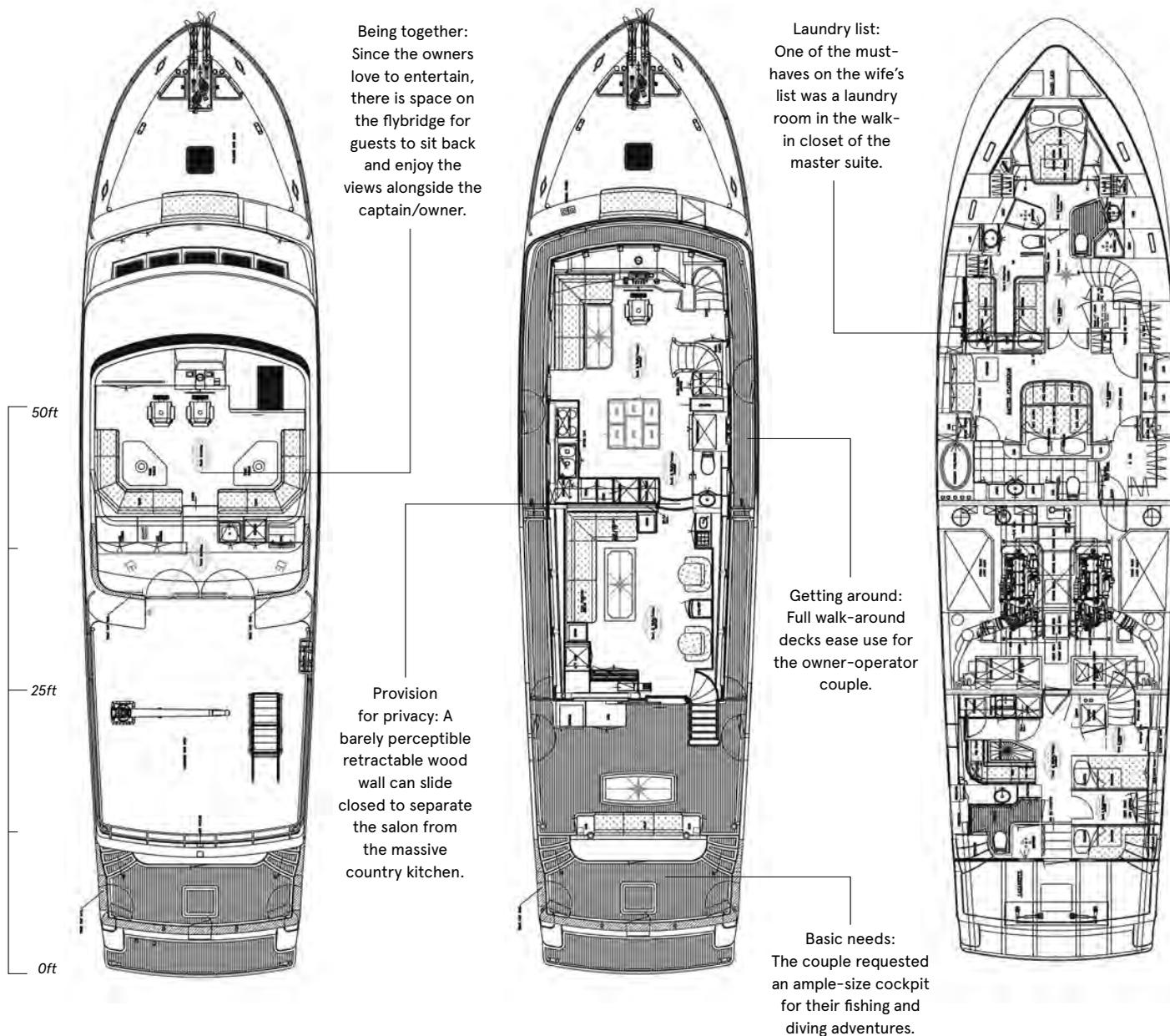
Nothing shiny — no chrome or stainless steel — is seen in the interior décor. The use of medium-toned satin finish teak and wengé cabinetry provides the traditional motif the owners were after.

## Barbara Sue II - Outer Reef Yachts

Top deck

Main deck

Lower deck

**LOA:** 82' (25m)**Beam:** 21' (6.4m)**Draft:** 5' 6" (1.7m)**Displacement:** 81.6 tons**Power:** 2 x 750-hp John Deere 6135**Speed (max/cruise):** 14.1/10.5 knots**Range:** 1,490 nm @ 10.5 knots**Fuel capacity:** 3,000 U.S. gallons**Generators:** 2 x 25kW Northern Lights**Stabilizers:** ABT Trac 250**Thrusters:** 38-hp ABT Trac bow and stern**Freshwater capacity:** 500 U.S. gallons**Black water capacity:** 250 U.S. gallons**Tenders:** Boston Whaler 130 Supersport**Owners and guests:** 6**Crew:** 3**Construction:** FRP**Classification:** Open Ocean Cat A**Naval architecture:** Tania Yachts**Interior design:** Outer Reef Yachts**Builder/year:**

Outer Reef Yachts/2015

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