

Whiskey



A Hemmingway-Styled Explorer Yacht Refit



In the ongoing battle of a megayacht's confused identity as a floating mansion or a marine machine, behold a third option: an elegantly rustic safari campsite cruising the world's most remote salt water fishing destinations. If Ernest Hemingway were to refit a traditionally styled yacht for adventure, he'd be soaked in Whiskey: 7,000-square feet of avant garde elegance, providing unrivaled comfort and safety at sea. This 196-foot yacht's fittingly romantic and adventurous décor is as bold as her name. Luxurious canvas paneling with contrasting leather trim actually adds warmth to the richest, most architecturally stunning wood ever seen on a yacht. Some yacht owners actually have little touch screens that flip through family pictures in the saloon, the pretense of highly anticipated frolicking for wannabe charterers.



Conversely, *Whiskey's* staircase and bulkheads are adorned with encased shrunken skulls amid art and myriad tribal antiquities, tapestries and maps. While nary an inch of her luscious wood remainsuncovered, the theme entrances the traveler to another world that definitely exists in their imagination, if not, indeed, part of their voyage's itinerary. There's a reason why this wood and interior décor reminiscent of the African Queen meets Charles Darwin is so unique. *Whiskey's* bare shell was transformed by legendary artisans and global outfitters, HF Interior, winner of the heralded 2009 Showboats award for M/Y Helios. HF's forage into the medium of reclaimed wood on *Whiskey* sets the record for the largest use of reclaimed wood in today's superyacht fleet.

Some yachts intimidate guests. They're reluctant to sit leisurely, and God forbid they sneeze, scratch themselves, or drop something on the deck. *Whiskey's* just not that kind of yacht. Scuffmarks from shoes actually add to the character of her exquisitely distressed pine saloon deck. Her handsome brass fixtures, antique lanterns, knobs and switch plates of her newfangled \$300,000 new central Light Touch system will never be polished by any stewardess, lest it lose its charmingly aged patinaed ambiance. *Whiskey* has an old world gentleman's look. One can plop down on the sofa, wearing boots after a day of salt water fly fishing in the world's most remote areas, and enjoy a stiff belt served in a cold glass. Not surprisingly, *Whiskey's* formal dining room was removed (and not replaced). The former dining room is now a pub and this yacht is renowned for its use of unconventional spaces.

Her interior is wild. Truly tribal. It's unlike anything you've ever seen unless you went on safari in the Serengeti after visiting a Voodoo Wax Museum in New Orleans' French Quarter. Installing *Whiskey's* art and memorabilia was a delicate, intricate process. Every item of the extensive personal art collection was individually installed after reinforcing the walls to support heavy, oversized pieces generally not found on a yacht.

Aging Whiskey

The wood sole and joinery work on *Whiskey* is breathtakingly distressed reclaimed yellow pine. The wood came from a turn of the century textile mill in Wilmington, North Carolina that was razed. Then the wood was shipped to Restoration Timber's mill shop in Appleton, Wisconsin where *Whiskey's* five truckloads of wood were kiln dried and resawn, then run through patterns for paneling, molding and cabinetry.

The wood was distressed to look 100 years old by physically punishing it. The result was creating artistic grooves to symbolize visually engrossing marks from repeated use. Punishing the wood, which already had nail holes and scratches in its from previous life in a textile factory, involved literally beating the hell out of each and every plank, 12,000-linear feet of pine with a vengeful nail on a mean hammer.

The cabinetry was sent to HF's Swedish facility for finishing, and the molding and paneling were finished and installed on the dock adjacent to the yacht for distressing, finishing and installation. Humidity and temperature were carefully controlled during onsite fabrication to prevent disintegration of the meticulously-selected reclaimed pine. Distressing the wood to perfection involved drying the reclaimed wood to 80-percent humidity.





After enduring a thorough and proper spanking by HF's team of 30 interior outfitters, the wood was duly rewarded with a nourishing, extensive six-step varnishing and finishing process. Then it was stripped and scuffed to look like it has been waxed hundreds of times over a century. "You can still see the original nail holes," says Mike Wilson, president of Restoration Timber. "The look and feel of the material carried through." Meanwhile, HF completely tore out the vessel interior and a maze of 1,000 wires while installing new HVAC, rewiring and plumbing. On the dock, more HF craftsmen created modular components from scratch on site, on the spot, as they were needed. *Whiskey's* refit lacked the plans generally provided to an interior outfitter undertaking such a task and the refit goalpost constantly moved without adjusting the game clock. Initially, *Whiskey's* refit was strictly a renovation of the master living quarters. Then the refit snowballed into the entire boat. She was lengthened 10-feet

as wholesale changes were being made to the galley and crew quarters while HF created other unique, customized spaces. Adjustments on crown moldings and transitions in the boat were made on the spot to achieve the designer's dream. The galley, where the owners dine with the chef, crew mess, and new appliances were not engineered beforehand. The HVAC system was amended with new designs, without any initial engineering support beforehand for ducts and vents. Then the whole boat's electrical system was gutted.

Unique, Custom Spaces

Beyond her formal dining room that was sacrificed and reconfigured for a much needed pub and watering hole, *Whiskey's* saloon sports an Internet café for her supernumeraries. That's a fancy name for those who work on the yacht but are not licensed crew. Rather, supernumeraries are fishing scientists who update the cyber world on latest on salt water angling from the Seychelles. A mammoth, 10-foot teak tackle box and locker on the lazarette house thousands of lures and rods, and she is ideal for diving with a special gear area. The entirely new layout of the owner's deck included a new clubroom and his and hers masters with twin ensuite onyx heads with eight, book-matched slabs. The clubroom's unique red leather sole was handmade: stained and hand stamped with a little tool by a rancher in Texas. Its punched-in border complements the deckhead's patterned fabric.

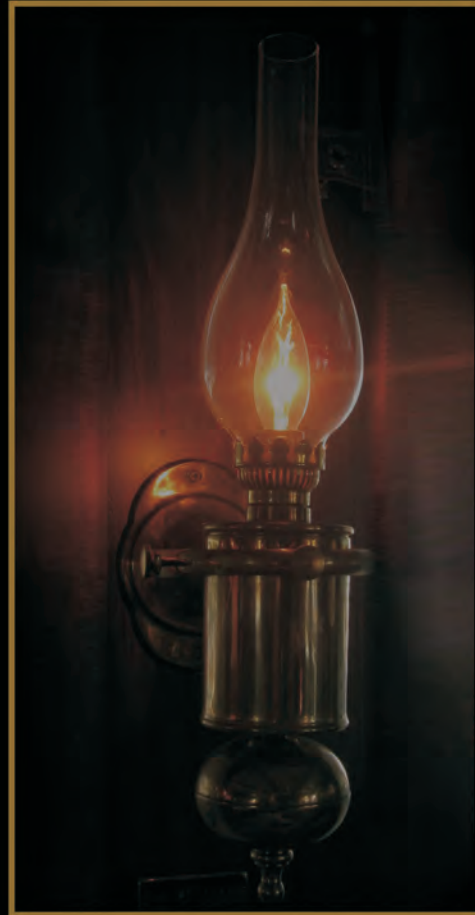
On the fly

Typical refits involve a naval architect and interior designer with bonafide plans at a sit down meeting with the interior company executing "the vision." With only conceptual drawings provided by the designers for *Whiskey's* transformation, little structural engineering was provided to HF Interior who became responsible for creating the technical drawings and specifications to complete the refit. Everything on *Whiskey* was gutted except the plumbing. The unique interior was a major challenge as it's usually built from a modular system. Everything on *Whiskey* was made from scratch, and primarily on the spot. HF inherited many non-marine grade materials and the vessel's dimensions were off, with no structure built into the deckheads, only a stack of electrical wireways and bundles of cables.

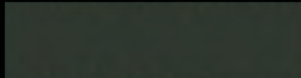
"When it comes to yachting, I'm not surprised at anything anymore," Biller says. "You see a beautiful rendering on a room and they say, 'Build this.' But there is no thought behind it as to where the A/C goes. Our execution is tailored to each project. There is no roadmap for an interior refit like *Whiskey's*. It was our greatest challenge yet as the design was made but nothing technical was done about it. We added a whole crew area to update and had to pull all the sprinklers out. But the time frame only adjusted four weeks while we made all the mockups."



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Megayacht Refit Review by



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