

SPOTLIGHT

— Benetti 56m – Lady Candy —

# INFERRED OPULENCE

ALAN CHUANG'S NEW FLAGSHIP BEARS THE HALLMARKS OF HIS VAST EXPERIENCE WITH YACHTS, COMPLETE WITH ASIAN INFLUENCES AND VISIONARY FLAIR. *Text by Frances and Michael Howorth; Photos by Jeff Brown*







anchorage and help create the feeling of spaciousness. In the forward part of the main saloon, a large circular dining table is illuminated with spectacular effect by a dramatic chandelier.

With a main deck devoid of its more traditional master suite, there is ample space for expanding other areas. The galley to port forward of the dining saloon is as a result enlarged and more professionally equipped than is normal, while to starboard is one of *Lady Candy's* star attractions. This takes the form a sumptuous media room or cinema completed with

reclining chairs and a massive wall screen. The equipment found here rivals the most prestigious movie viewing rooms seen in Hollywood and is a palace in which the film lover is king.

Six lavish luxury suites offer on board accommodation for up to 12 guests. Four of these are on the lower deck with the owner's cabin and that of his daughter, moved to the upper deck to maximise privacy. The guest decks are connected by a central lift that opens onto an elegant lobby on each of the levels and even extends to serve the spacious sundeck.

Chuang's suite is aft and features a private lounging area, large study, his and hers walk-in closets and impressive private owners deck facing aft. Rich oriental designs with gold leaf detailing stands out, immediately catching the eye and causing a sharp intake of breath at the beauty of it all as one enters. Leather, silk, high-gloss woods are just some of the ingredients that make this stateroom special, spacious and somewhat sensuous.

Of the four other guest cabins on the lower deck, two are fitted with twin beds and two with queen size beds all feature desk-vanity units, large closets, and spacious bathrooms.

As a keen diving and underwater enthusiast, Chuang could not pass up the opportunity to install a fully equipped beach club, complete with bar, gymnasium, steam shower, bathroom and living area right next to the swimming platform, which has separate entrances for guests and crew.





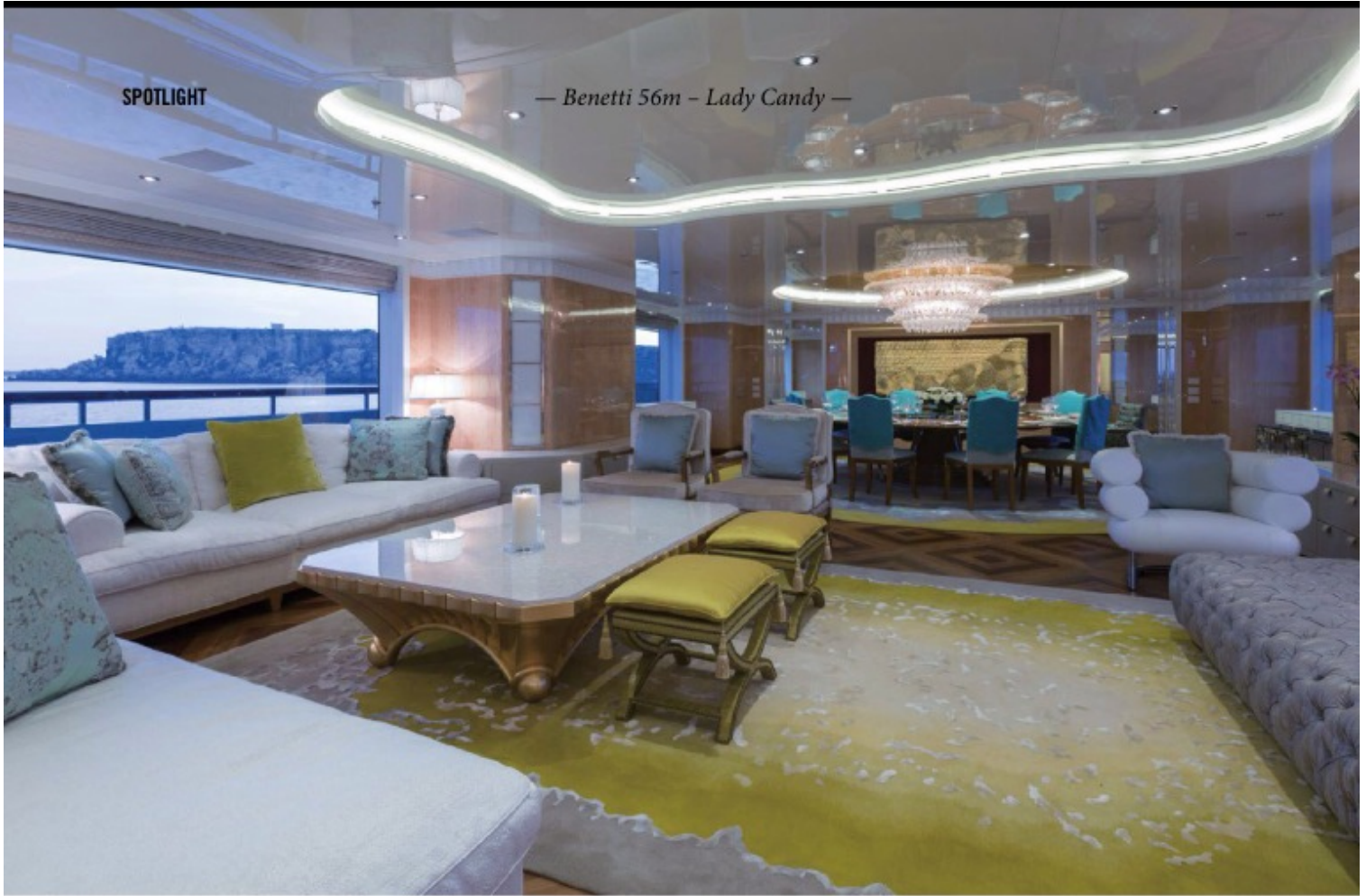
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HONG KONG-BASED PROPERTY DEVELOPER and entrepreneur Alan Chuang is a hugely experienced yachtsman. He is also the delighted owner of the newly delivered 56-metre Benetti superyacht named after his daughter – *Lady Candy*. The yacht has just finished her shakedown cruise to arrive in the Maldives and soon Chuang will be using her to indulge his passion for scuba diving.

Chuang intends to enjoy the yacht together with his family and friends and has plans that see her cruising extensively throughout Southeast Asia. He played an actively important role in the design – paying particular attention on the interior layout that was custom-designed by Captain

Paul Brackley's Hong Kong-based Central Yacht Design Studio. Chuang did, for example, explicitly request that the interiors be given priority over the exteriors, and by doing so, he has created an enormous and exciting main saloon that covers 88 square metres of the main deck.

He has, however, ensured his new flagship bears the hallmarks of his previous experience with yachts. Asian influences abound, combining contemporary colours, materials and textures with visionary flair. Large sofas, light-coloured soft furnishings, high-gloss ceilings, plush carpeting with mother-of-pearl-like detailing speak of a quietly inferred opulence.

The generously appointed aft deck is dominated by a huge white U-shaped sofa and oriental styled armchairs. It leads through glass doors to a light and refreshingly simple main saloon alive with fresh green and azure highlights on an otherwise palette of white, grey and soft natural colours. Large side windows offer unhindered viewing of an





A fifth or additional lower deck accesses the engine room, mechanical areas, and various stowage spaces that are critical towards ensuring efficiency and autonomy, the laundry room, and other essential service areas. Right astern is the beach club. The large engine room forward of the beach club is fitted with twin 1,320 kW MTU 12V 4000 engines and two 175 kW Cat C9 generators. The maximum speed achieved during sea trials was 17 knots, while cruising the speed is likely to be set at 16 knots. For best fuel-economy, a cruising speed of 12 knots gives her a range of 5,000 nautical miles.

Forward on the lower deck, with separate access, are five cabins and common areas for the 12 crew. Further forward, the garage houses the 7.3m Tender Shipyard TS 73. Regardless of the weather conditions, the launching of the tender can be easily controlled from above by opening the side door and operating a simple launching-hauling system. The garage also accommodates two jet skis, assorted water toys and a cavernous chilled garbage locker for extended cruising.

Canny businessman that he is, Chuang ordered his yacht from the Italian shipyard at a time in the global economic crisis when most – if not all – superyacht builders were eager to get commissioning owners to put pen to paper and were offering incentives to them.

Like Chuang, the commissioning Captain Paul Brackley is very satisfied with the finished product after working with the boatyard to come up with the concept, exterior style, and interior plan. "This is my company's third project with Benetti," Brackley says. The first was back in 2005, which was commissioned by Ambrose Young. That was his 65-metre *Ambrosia*, an award-winning and technologically advanced vessel with a hybrid diesel-electric drive – it was the first yacht in the world with the ABB compact Azipod propulsion system."

*Lady Candy* is the first yacht to be fully developed directly by Hong Kong-based consultancy Central Yacht, and she has proved to be a resounding success – already receiving various nominations in

BENETTI 56M LADY CANDY	
Length	56.0 metres
Beam	10.6m
Draught	3.55m
Displacement	800 tons
Gross tonnage	962
Fuel capacity (litres)	130,000
Fresh water capacity (litres)	30,000
Black/ Grey water capacity (litres)	11,000
Main engines	2 x MTU 12V 4000 M53
Output Power	1,320kW @ 1800rpm
Speed	17 knots
Range @ 12kn	5,000nm

superyacht design award categories. More significantly, she completed a 3,500 nautical mile shakedown cruise to the entire satisfaction of both her Captain and owner, who says he is looking forward to working less and taking a more relaxed view on life as he plans to linger longer aboard *Lady Candy* than he has been able to do on his previous yachts. [www.benettiyachts.it](http://www.benettiyachts.it)