

**SPICE ISLAND SWING ON  
SUPER S/Y MIRABELLA V**

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2006

# ShowBoats

INTERNATIONAL

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## Benetti's High-Tech Breakthrough

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of a megayacht or a speedboat. The next consideration is chartering; it will affect the fabrics and carpets choices," Anita says.

In 90 percent of the cases, she says, the carpet is the first thing to go—quickly followed by window treatments. "It's not always that the carpet is in terrible shape, but make changes to the seating area, and you'll find the old custom carpet no longer matches the furniture footprint."

If you want to keep the carpet but you don't like the sofa, restyle it, she adds. "We can change the arms and back while reupholstering. You can cut down a traditional tuxedo sofa or add big rolled arms to a contemporary grouping and still keep the pieces that will fit the existing furniture tie-downs."

If you aren't willing to change the carpet—an item that can cost \$75 to \$250 per yard—consider overlays with area rugs. Take a tip from Ralph Lauren Home and pick an area rug bound in leather or contrasting fabric for a chic way to tie a new seating area together. In the skylounge, you might want to replace the old wall-to-wall with a wood or environmentally PC bamboo floor and area rugs to create a more relaxed, youthful décor.

"A lot of what we are doing today is transitional rather than traditional, and a number of my clients want a more tropical look," says Anita. "I use this opportunity to remove a layer of window treatment and suggest shoji styles or grass-cloth shades."

One quick way to alter a look is to change hardware and light fixtures. "Changing old-fashioned gold and glass knobs and door handles to sleek silver or polished nickel is an easy start," says Anita. "You can often completely change the tone of a bathroom by just changing the sconces and the accessories."

The Ungers recently tackled a dated, limed-oak finish on a 140-foot (42.7-meter) Christensen now called *Daydream*. The main-deck paneling was resurfaced with sapele veneers. Down below and in the skylounge, the pickling stain was chemically removed, sanded and the oak was re-stained a cherry tone and finished with satin varnish.

Browsing comprehensive furniture gallery Websites will help you narrow the possibilities—or at least help define what you like and what works with the boat. The larger the space, the easier it is to blend styles, especially if the woods are similar in tone and finish. A good way to browse boat-sized furnishings is to visit IK Yacht Design online ([www.ikyacht.com](http://www.ikyacht.com)). For a great collection of accessories and sources of antiques and nautical prints, try the Ralph Lauren Home Website at [www.rlhome.polo.com](http://www.rlhome.polo.com).

When it comes to the galley, burnished copper is the new stainless steel. Make the galley look state-of-the-art by simply changing the face panels to new copper-look surfaces. Update your counters with the look of granite with much less the weight and price with "engineered stone." Rock-solid Granit ([www.granitetransformations.com](http://www.granitetransformations.com)) can be installed directly over existing countertops. This remarkable product is 95 percent stone and 5 percent polymer and comes in quarter-inch-thick "slabs" in 19 colors. It is less porous, more flexible and more scratch and impact resistant than natural granite. Try pairing it with a Mosaics backsplash, a pre-grouted, pre-assembled mosaic surface of transparent glass veined with enamels and aventurina stone that also lays down over existing galley or bath surfaces. □

## NAUTICALLY SPEAKING

▶ If you want to instill tradition, or your interior tastes run to navy blue, white and varnished teal, you can enhance the theme by displaying these beautiful Czech-made pieces from Artel depicting schooners and Big Class racers in full sail in a series called "The Golden Age of Yachting." Decorative objects aboard yachts usually take rather large artistic license, but these look like they could have been pulled off a Rosenfeld photo. Artel's glassware is hand blown by Bohemian artisans and each design is individually etched. [www.artelglass.com](http://www.artelglass.com)



## PICK A PAIR

▶ Consider the difference these two Manheim-Ruseau styles would make to the basic beige salon. For those following European traditions, the walnut "Corbe" console tables feature a hand-rubbed finish and carved cabriole legs. Contrast these with the "Wayfarer" side tables that hint at Directoire formality but in a clean and simple form. Manheim-Ruseau is a third generation American maker of handcrafted furniture with an archival catalogue of some 2,500 pieces encompassing art deco, English, French and Italian styles.

[www.manheimruseau.com](http://www.manheimruseau.com)