sailing yacht than a traditional displacement boat. Perhaps it's no surprise, since part of Humphreys Yacht Design's modus operandi is calling on its deep experience in sailing boat design and applying that to a motor yacht.

Because the yacht had to be efficient as well as offer immense seakeeping, the Humphreys Yacht Design team used CFD analysis and tank testing to refine the hull form and get the balance just right. "The hull is slippery with low drag, but nicely controlled and has good stability," says Rob Humphreys.

There's also a fairly generous rudder area to maintain control in high-speed surfing situations. "We knew from tank testing that in big ocean swells, the boat would surf down the waves," says Tom Humphreys. The designers also developed systems for controlling trim, such as carrying extra water in the freshwater tanks.

The hull is designed to mimic the roll of a displacement yacht thanks to its stabilisation, with Humphree Fins and interceptors. Another means of passive stabilisation is the "flopper stoppers" hinged stainless-steel plates that hang off the booms and open flat in the water to help dampen roll by up to 60 per cent. "You see a similar thing in fishing trawlers," says Mair, noting that the booms do double duty by helping to lift and launch the tenders.

In the "nice to have but hope never to use" category is the Arksen 85's self-righting ability. Much like a sailing yacht, if she were to roll in rough seas she'd be able to flip back over. The glazing had to be made especially durable to afford this, and as such the windows are 25 millimetres thick.

Eyebrow overhangs over the glazing, a walkaround Portuguese bridge and outrigger booms lend a commercial element to the yacht's exterior. "We concurred from the beginning on the rugged styling," says Rob Humphreys. "I like the honesty of it. It's form meets function, but proof that function doesn't have to be ugly. Owners can keep a low profile but have the comforts of a superyacht inside. And, for its size, the boat packs in a lot of capabilities."

Beneath her workaday exterior, the Arksen 85 hides a comfortable superyacht interior. It was important to Smith that the Arksen 85 felt like a home. Design Unlimited created three interior schemes that vary in colour, and the one chosen by the owner of Project Pelagos features white-washed oak and teal soft goods. "The interior is quite Scandinavian, stripped back with simple geometry, but the colour palette is bolder," says Nigel Jones, senior designer at Design Unlimited. "The owner had a big say in the interior - we went through five or six different samples to get just the right shade of teal."

To meet Arksen's overall brief for sustainability, eco-friendly materials were chosen as much as possible. This includes the pure paper laminate seen in the bathroom bulkheads, the sustainable leather found in the helm area upholstery, sustainable faux leather in the berth surrounds, and recycled PET upholstery in the armchairs and main-deck sofa. Expect to see even more sustainable materials on future boats in the series, says Sophie Porteous, senior designer with Design Unlimited. "When we first started with Arksen, there was very little choice in sustainable and recyclable materials. But the market has exploded and now all of the fabric houses have an eco-friendly range."



BEYOND BOATS

In addition to its yachts, which include the Explorer, Adventure and Discovery series of boats, Arksen has a few more offerings up its sleeve, from clothes to cars. "We are striving to be anything but just another boatbuilder," says Arksen founder Jasper Smith. "Our community embraces overland expeditions just as much as crossing oceans, and many of them are interested in scaling high mountains or backcountry skiing in remote areas."

The Overland division retrofits four-wheel drive vehicles, such as the Arksen D110e electric Land Rover Defender, which offers fast-charging, a 240km range, a 240V inverter and curated Arksen specs. As part of the wider lifestyle adventure brand, the company also launched its apparel label, Arksen Labs, which uses sustainable materials to create waterproof jackets and tech T-shirts.

Finally, Arksen is also getting into the adventure travel game. "Arksen Adventures, which we launched recently and augmented through acquisition, will be the world's largest provider of adventure sailing holidays," says Smith. "It will also offer a wide range of carefully curated and potentially life-changing experiences, taking in mountains, deserts and oceans.

"Our aim is to unite conservation, adventure and epic products to create a new type of adventure company built for a new generation of explorers," Smith continues. "We realise that this radical approach is not for everyone. But that's a good thing."