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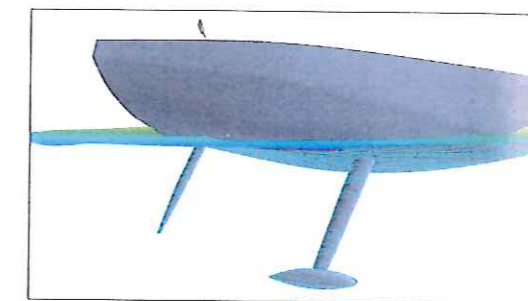
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▲ Above: a lifting T-keel will reduce draught for cruising from 4.2m to a more manageable 2.95m

VISMARA MILLS 62 SUPERNIKKA

Dual-purpose performer

Racing boat designer Mark Mills is busier than he's been in five years, he tells Toby Hodges. This fiendish-looking racer-cruiser is in the build in Italy and he has a fun-looking C&C 30, too – see overleaf

At first glance this powerful new Vismara Mills 62 looks like the ultimate weapon for the current mini-maxi fleet. But although she will mix it with this fiercely competitive top-end racing class, she is designed as a dual-purpose cat, so she can be cruised as well.

Mark Mills, based in County Wicklow, Ireland, is responsible for the naval architecture and describes the brief as an unusual one these days, as the boat had to race hard, but still be able to take a family out for three or four weeks of cruising.

"I explained to the owner that this introduces compromises, but he still really

wanted to do it," says Mills. The result is "the most competitive racer-cruiser we could possibly do," he declares.

A multitude of features, including a tender in a garage and a bowthruster, can be removed pre-regatta to make the yacht up to two tonnes lighter.

In 2012 the Viareggio-based Vismara yard built *Nikka*, a 47ft carbon racer-cruiser for repeat client Roberto Lacorte. Lacorte, creator of the 151 Miglia offshore race on the west coast of Italy, was reportedly inspired by the Mills-designed 68ft mini-maxi *Alegre* and he proposed a collaboration between Mills and Vismara.

This fiendish 62-footer, christened *SuperNikka*, is the result.

Mills worked up the exterior geometry, including hull, deck, appendages and rig. He stressed how interesting it was working with designer and builder Alessandro Vismara who, under Vismara Marine, has launched an intriguing number and variety of performance designs over recent years.

The Vismara Mills 62 is described as a semi-custom build because her design can be adjusted for future owners. The shape of *SuperNikka* is biased towards offshore racing in the Mediterranean and should be ideal for reaching angles thanks to her

DIMENSIONS

LOA 19.00m/62ft 4in
Beam 5.00m/16ft 5in
Draught 2.95-4.20m/
9ft 8in-13ft 9in
Disp 16,500kg/36,376lb

ruler-edged chine. But for those who want inshore windward-leeward racing the chine could be altered, the designer says.

SuperNikka is being built in carbon sandwich, vacuum-infused with epoxy, and will have a lifting T-keel to reduce draught for cruising. Two twin cabins aft and an owner's cabin forward with king-size berth combine to accommodate six guests when cruising, or eight for racing.

She is due to launch in spring 2015 and will compete in the Rolex Maxi Worlds and the Middle Sea Race, as well as Roberto Lacorte's 151 Miglia event.

www.vismaramarine.it



▲ Above: *SuperNikka* is the result of a collaboration between designer Mark Mills and Vismara Marine in Italy. The hull shape might be biased towards offshore racing, but she is designed to cruise as well