

Bow2stern Magazine
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not all is 'pleasure' On the design table

▼ by Winston Fiennes

WHILE BEING BEST KNOWN AS DESIGNERS OF LUXURY PLEASURE CRAFT AND AWARD WINNING PRODUCTION TRAILER BOATS, ROBSON DESIGN HAS ALSO BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN THE MILITARY AND COMMERCIAL FIELDS.

THE SUCCESSFUL DESIGN WORK UNDERTAKEN on the hi-speed patrol boats in use in Asia and the Middle East has proven extremely beneficial as the requirements of hi-speed, exceptional rough water performance and a stable platform while loitering are incorporated in all new designs produced by Robson Design whether they are pleasure craft or commercial. This combined with Robson Design's previous success in offshore powerboat racing provides a pretty unique heritage in every vessel designed by Robson Design with not many design firms being able to boast of such a heritage. One of these patrol



craft is the Patriot 1181, Patriot being a brand of patrol boats marketed by Queensland's Barry Moore internationally, which is in service with the Jordan Navy. These craft have proved a great success achieving a top speed fully laden or close to 50kts, in fact one of the fastest large Hamilton jet power craft in military service with further orders pending in the Middle East.

On the commercial side Robson Design has developed quite a portfolio of designs with this aspect of the business having considerable expansion in the last five years. This portfolio consists of commercial fishing, tourist ferries, charter fishing and resort dive boats.

The latest launching is the R354C Dive Commercial which was built at Cobra Boats in Nadi, Fiji for Volivoli Resort Fiji, who specialise in dive charters and training. The New R354C increases their range to three vessels dedicated to dive work.

Patriot 1181 patrol craft for the Jordan Navy being launched.
(above right)

The R354C Dive Commercial hull design is based on patrol boat technology. ((below)





The R354C is configured to carry up to 18 divers and five crew with four tanks each. The transom area has been designed to allow easy access on and off the vessel either side of the engines and has seating along each side with dive racks with further storage for tanks in a forward under floor compartment. The roof extends the full length of the vessel providing full protection from the sun while there is a toilet compartment forward with a vee berth. The Volivoli boat is powered by twin 300hp Suzukis and is capable of 39kts max with a light load and 32kts fully loaded with a very economical cruise speed of 23kts. This craft can also be powered by triple outboards, stern drives or inboards and jets with different cabin layouts as a pleasure craft. This hull form can also be re-configured with inflatable tubes (RIB), which is some client's preference for a dive boat and there are several craft with this configuration in operation. Robson Design has a range of RIBs which can be configured with either inflatable (RIB) foam or solid alloy (RBT) tubes from 4.5m up to 16m. The solid foam tube is proving quite popular and in a lot of situations is replacing the inflatable tube especially in military craft. On the

The Volivoli resort R 354C achieves 39kts powered by 2 x 300hp Suzuki outboards.

commercial and charter fishing front the design office has had positive feedback from the recent launching of the RP400 12m power cat for top commercial fisherman Mike Pooley. This Hamilton jet powered craft has exceeded the owner's expectation, hitting 37kts with a load of crays on board and yet can cruise at 20kts comfortably in large seas when required. A 13m version is due to start construction with a 14.5m concept on the drawing board. Construction has started on a R406 charter fishing vessel which is to do fishing charters off the Kaikoura Coast and the Marlborough Sounds in New Zealand. This new design is based on the R405 series but is longer, deeper with a larger saloon and cabin area confirmed for overnight extended trips.

All of these vessels are available as alloy pre-cut kits for the professional boat builder or engineer who wishes to build the boat for their own use.



CHARTER: ROBSON 405



CHARTER: ROBSON R50

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