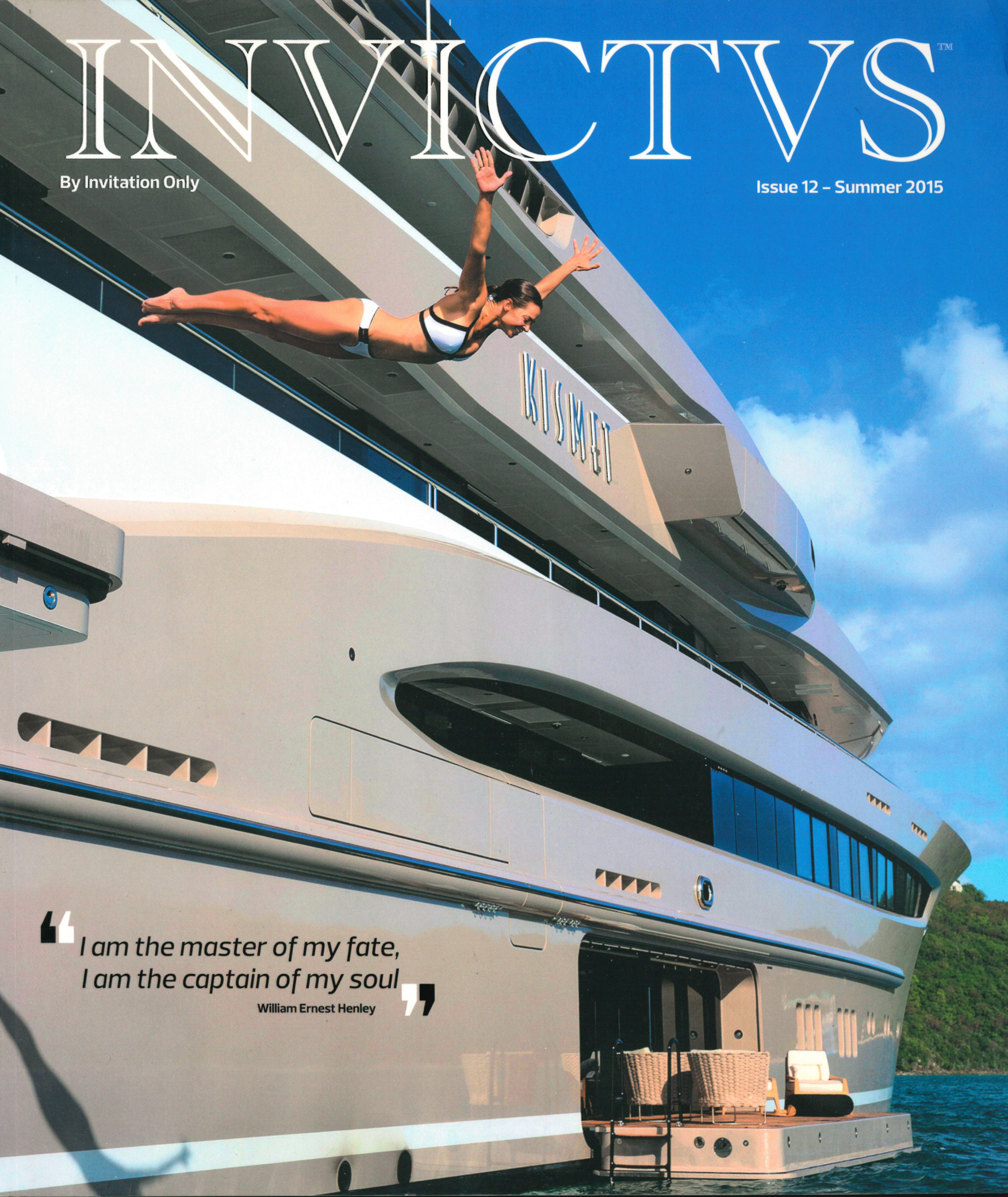
INVICTVS™

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"I am the master of my fate,
I am the captain of my soul"

William Ernest Henley



Time with...
PAOLO ROSSI
of the Paolo Rossi Studio

A resident of Milan since he was three, growing up in the city Paolo Rossi has learned firsthand the importance of practicing in the Capital of Design

Tell us about Milan and why it works for you?
While I was not born here and did leave to study architecture at Florence University, Milan is where I grew up and I love the city very much. It is part of me and I am part of it. On a very personal level I would love to live beside the sea, but Milan is my home and this is where I will stay.

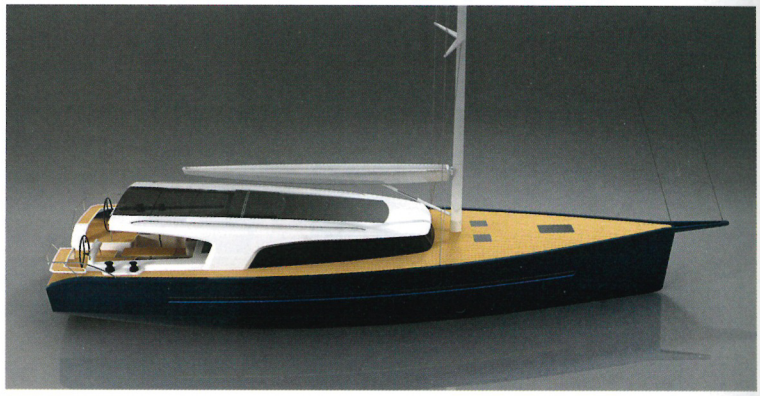
What is the attraction of Milan?
Its reputation as the design center of the world is certainly a draw and by far the largest number of Italian yacht owners live here, miles from the sea! From a designer's point of view it is highly efficient to be located here as it is not really important for a yacht designer to have offices by the sea. In Milan you can find anything, people come here for design and other exhibitions, collaboration with artisans. There is a culture of design here and being a well-connected transport hub travel logistics are easy.

How did you become involved in yacht design?
I had chosen to write a thesis on boat building while studying in Florence, that first opened my eyes as to the possibility of becoming a designer of boats. I had always been passionate about boats, but when I went to university traditional architecture courses were the only option open to me as student. In 1995 I visited various studios hoping to find work and was lucky enough to find it in a studio with Ivana Porfiri. I later opened my own studio in 2003 and moved to this building 5-years ago. Today we have between three and six people working in the studio, depending upon the amount of work we have on.

Do you only work on yacht designs?
No, I work mostly on yachts but private residential and industrial design is also very important aspects of our work here in the studio. The design industry here in Italy, and very specifically in Milan, is very much more cosmopolitan than elsewhere in the world. There are no real boundaries in design and every discipline while different to look at, shares the same values in the designers mind. Visually there is vast different between a door handle and a sunroof, but to design either you approach it in the very same way.

How do those disciplines differ?
I enjoy looking at both architecture and design. I believe they are both different parts of the same ethos. Getting inside the mind of the client is important, you need to understand what they want and still surprise them at the end.

What are you working on now?
I am working on the conversion of a ship with the intention of creating a vessel that can act as a venue to host rock concerts. The idea is she would enter port, tie alongside a berth and open her bulwarks to create a stage. It would make a great vehicle for a pop group making a world tour! Currently it is still a concept and research project, but it is for a client who still has to fully buy into the idea and come up with an idea of a sensible budget. I am also working on the refit of a yacht of 164' originally built by Oceanco.



57' Convertible Sloop

Currently on the boards of Paolo Rossi is this interesting project for a stylish 57' sailing yacht that makes full use of the recent developments in glass technology. While the benefits of a glass roof flooding the main salon with light are obvious, less obvious is the manner in which the aft glazed section slides to offer a unique open or covered cockpit arrangement. Just one example of the many innovative ideas to come out of this studio that successfully incorporates both style and substance in their designs.

What yacht designs are you most proud of?
I really like Mockba. She is a hand built MAS 42 Sport and was designed by me as a day boat. Every single detail is unique and custom built, from the mooring cleats to the hand sewn leather seats in the same style as a Bentley motor car. She will be used by her owner in Sardinian waters and features just one owner's cabin down below. The luxury and detailing of the interior easily matches, if not surpasses, that seen on board a large super yacht. It is so sad that the yard that built her has since closed down after building second boat on spec.

What does the future hold for you?
I have in hand a design for larger 171' for the same owner, plus a smaller one of 120' that is being built on spec. I am also developing my plans for the award winning 60' sailing yacht design that features a main saloon just one step down from the cockpit.