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Thai yard creating eco-friendly catamarans

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Mike Fulton

Local Thai boat builder Bakri Cono displayed a refitted catamaran at the Ocean Marina Pattaya Boat Show recently, showcasing their expertise in custom-built boats. The yard is also producing its own line of eco-friendly catamarans in its Heliotrope line and these were viewable at their yard which is also located at the marina.



Bakri Cono's shipyard at Ocean Marina in Pattaya

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The vessel was refitted for a Swiss owner and Bakri Cono were tasked with creating his “dreamboat”.

Amongst the modifications was a 10-foot extension to the existing 39-foot multihull, a change of engine and the addition of forced engine ventilation, increasing the size of the roof to accommodate twelve 370-watt solar panels to make her self-sufficient for both cooking and air conditioning, adding more batteries and a generator, modification of the windows and replacement of the entire floor. A larger rudder was added and Bakri Cono also built a garage to fit a dinghy and a swimming platform.



The 12-solar panels on the roof of the refitted catamaran

The happy owner is now ready for coastal cruising, which he intends to start next January. He considers it eco-friendly to have solar panels for electricity generation and also to have on-board black water treatment.

The owner chose Bakri Cono to carry out the refit based on their very wide experience working with fiberglass and he has worked with the yard before and trusts them. Being based in Thailand, he could follow the progress of the project which took about two years to complete.



The uncluttered cockpit following refitting

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Locally based Albatross Marine Design did the design for the refit. This way they were able to customize rather than follow a standard design.

Bakri Cono's yard t Ocean Marina was also open to the public for viewing of their Heliotrope 65 which is scheduled for launch in mid-December.



The Heliotrope 100 taking shape at Bakri Conos' yard

She is an impressive catamaran, both in terms of functionality and elegance, and is custom-built to the owner's specifications. The main deck is capable of hosting large parties and the yard has used different essences of wood used across the entire boat. The Heliotrope 65 will be displayed at the upcoming Singapore Yacht Show earl next year.



The saloon of the new Heliotrope 100 catamaran

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Bakri Cono's next project is The Heliotrope 100. The company believes the market is ripe for this type of boat. A lot of research effort has been afforded by the designers into Asian culture to create a boat that will meet local tastes and desires. They are thus very bullish about the future for locally built custom boats based on local designs and experienced Thai workmanship.

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