



DECKED OUT

Above: Show Design award winning Super Yacht, Blind Date, features a plethora of bespoke installations

Bathrooms International expertise and products where ever and whenever possible

RAPID ASCENT

Far right: Blind Date's spiral staircase was clad in a liquid bronze finish before sculpting

BATHING BEAUTIES

Right: The duo are exclusively using



Words REBECCA HOH

KEECH GREEN

Super Yacht award wins have set London-based Keech Green up for an exciting year of large scale residential projects and a team-up with Bathrooms International

It's not everyday that your first boat project wins two international awards, but that was exactly what happened to Keech Green, the London-based practice established in 2002 by Michael Keech and Graham Green. Blind Date, the 47m yacht commission that features a spiral staircase, clad in a liquid bronze, reed wallpapers, marble, onyx, and silk interior finishes, won the team the 2010 World Super Yacht Award as well as the Showboats Awards in Miami at the end of last year. And things have been on the up ever since. "Yes, totally," affirms Keech. "Aside from being a healthy boost to the ego, awards like that have undoubtedly brought in new business and have helped to launch Keech Green into the yacht industry. Alongside our on-land residential work, we are currently in discussion with a boatyard in regard to a new yacht project."

The duo started their design life in retail design but moved onto to an impressive array of residential projects that now makes up most of their day-to-day work. "We were lucky enough to cut our teeth on two large residential projects, both in excess of 6,000 sq ft in Mayfair and Phillimore Gardens, having just exited from our respective roles

at Ralph Lauren," describes Green. Soon after completion, the practice relocated to its current offices in Chelsea Harbour in 2006, which is now made up of eight staff - project managers, designers, admin and marketing individuals, in addition to the two directors.

In this time the team cite their project highlights as a large Moscow house, a Hampstead and New York penthouse, and of course their first and accoladed super yacht. Although they were somewhat concerned about the new experience, "We were a little anxious about the transposition of our design skills to the high seas," admits Keech, "but we were very quickly reassured by the happy marriage we experienced with Heesen who built the boat and architects on the project Omega. We were also blessed with clients, whom we were actually already working with on their London home, who set a familiar brief to create a 'home from home at sea'."

The practice has also just signed an exclusive partnership with Bathrooms International, and will be solely using their products and expertise on upcoming projects. The pairing comes as Keech and Green feel that they have not only had a long and happy

working relationship with the bathroom retailer, but they have an affinity for their chosen style which Keech Green has coined 'Modern Deco'. "It's both rich and opulent," they explain, "but it also has clean lines and a strong architectural foundation that ensures it is neither stark nor fussy."

Their approach to projects is also calm and practical, "We take the easiest, most composed solution to a problem," says Green. "Projects can take up to three years to complete, so this approach is imperative to a long relationship with our clients!"

The year ahead seems to be filling up. On all their projects the duo design custom-built furniture and are now working on producing a retailable range, alongside the completion of their current residential projects, two of which are 2,500 sq ft, one in Kensington and in New York. So although the approach maybe be measured and methodical, office life may be a little more hectic, "It's true, we have a lively, dynamic work space with client, supplier and site meetings, project meetings happening all the time," confirm the pair. "No two days are ever the same!" www.keechgreen.com