

SEA OF LOVE
Three romantic getaways

LEGENDARY TRADE
"Your yacht for my island"

SHAPE UP
Keeping fit on board

ShowBoats

International



FREEDOM OF FORM

*A sailboat from the radical
mind of Frank Gehry*

FINDING INNER PEACE

On seductively simple Solis

THE WORLD'S TOP 101 SUPERYACHTS

DIVE IN

*Exploring Bahamas'
blue holes*



Sneak peek
at the Miami
boat show

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Interiors

It's a hard life

The most challenging thing about the latest generation of laser-cut couture stone and shell is that you can't use too much of it. Its very uniqueness defies book-matching and, besides, such brilliance and patterning would make any space look distractingly psychedelic if over-employed.

It's best used to punctuate low-key interiors with high drama. And what is the nature of this drama? For stone slabs, it's a story of volcanic eruptions, molten lava, cascading glaciers followed by tranquility. For shells, it's intense parasitic attacks followed by a slow, but steady buildup of protective nacre.

How ironic that these slabs now appear so peaceful, laid out on their honeycomb substrates having endured so much for so long. For these exquisite stones and shells it's been a hard life. Until now.



UNDERWATER TREASURE

Petrified (aka fossilized) wood can lay claim to a special position in the cosmic order: an organic/inorganic hybrid, a metamorphosis of tree into rock. Somewhere in South Africa millions of years ago, a flood pulled this tree trunk underwater. Sediment sealed off the air, thus protecting it from those pesky parasites and rot. Inorganic matter then slowly seeped in and replaced the organic.

\$865 per square meter for this **Black Petrified Wood** slab, divyagemstonex.com

MARMI-GO-ROUND

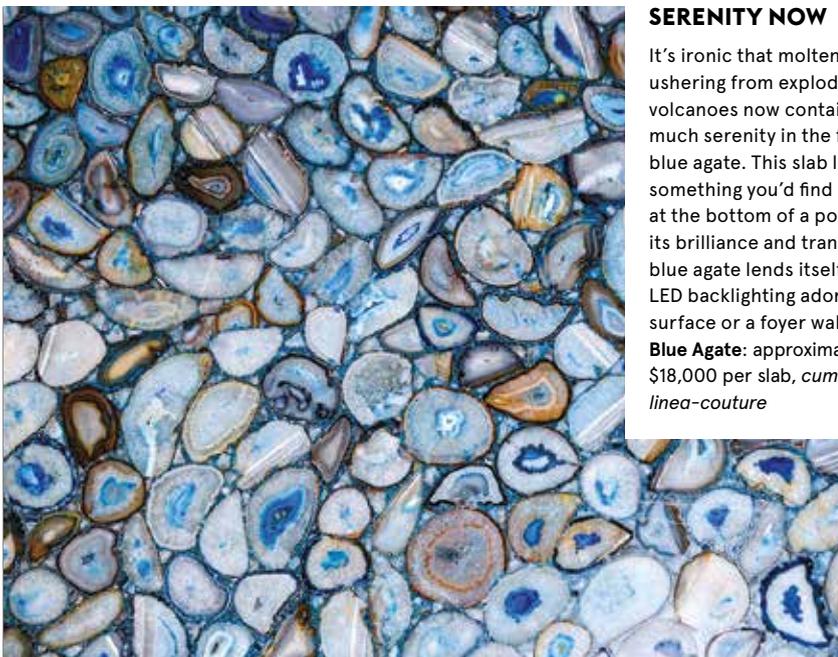
Who cuts and fabricates and installs those magnificent miles of marble on the biggest yachts and ships? The innovative Marmi Vrech company gets credit for many of them, including two of the world's largest recently launched yachts, 492-foot *Saffron* from Cantieri Mariotti in Genova, Italy, and the 351-foot explorer *Ulysses* from Kleven in Norway, not to mention cruise ship lines Cunard, Carnival, Queen Elizabeth, to name a few. Be sure to ask them about their non-slip marble flooring technology. marmivrech.it/en



SERENITY NOW

It's ironic that molten lava ushering from exploding volcanoes now contains so much serenity in the form of blue agate. This slab looks like something you'd find snorkeling at the bottom of a pool. Due to its brilliance and translucency, blue agate lends itself well to LED backlighting adorning a bar surface or a foyer wall perhaps.

Blue Agate: approximately \$18,000 per slab, cumar.com/linea-couture



ROMANCING THE STONE

From slabs to sculpture – marble meets 3D.

With its green and grays and white cross-currents, **Ledmore marble** from Scotland is like the North Sea itself. This slab comes from the UK-based company Lapidica, which has long been associated with restoring the stones of UK castles. But the firm is also onto something very cutting edge. Its 3D scanner and 5-Axis CNC Shaping Mill technology enable Lapidica to scan and recreate any object at virtually any size and in any stone. \$115 per square foot, lapidica.com



BUG OFF!

Just as a boat hull has to protect itself from parasites, mollusks do, too. Hence, they secrete a composite of organic/inorganic coating on the inside of their shells called nacre, or mother of pearl. The iridescence comes from the fact that the tough little platelets that make up nacre match up with the visible spectrum. They can also be tinted, like in this **Black Mother of Pearl** slab. Slabs are approximately 96 by 48 inches and \$310 per square foot. abcworldwidestone.com