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## Belgium yard launches innovative 40 footer

By Pit de Jonge

French designers Julien Martin and Gildas Plessis and the Iris boatyard in Brussels, Belgium, have created a new and distinctive 40 ft sailing yacht the principle behind which is to be more ergonomically sound with particular functions adapted to the place and environment where they are realised. For instance the helmsman has his own cockpit at the rear end of the West epoxy (West system) build boat. The bottom of this cockpit is lower, because helmsmen are used to standing up. The winchgrinder, on the contrary will sit or kneel, so their more forward cockpit is less deep.

Also in the interior, the sitting and eating area lies underneath the cockpit. While cooking and even navigating can be done in the area where there is plenty of headroom. The area before the mast is called the quiet zone, reserved for bunks.

The hull is built of two plies of mahogany with a West epoxy cover are stiffened with yellow cedar ribs, all laminated together with more epoxy.

The original concept for the boat goes back to 1951 and Irisoft says it will provide an alternative to the "all plastic" yachts for people who enjoy living on board. The first Irisoft 40 can be seen at the La Rochelle boat show which concludes on September 10, and will also be shown at the Antwerp Boat Show at the end of this month.

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