



## *Powerboats*

Germán Frers may be better known for their sailboats, but this design house has just as long a history producing powerboat designs. During the '50s and 60s, Germán Frers Snr. drew the lines for a large number of launches, weekenders and larger cruisers, together with commercial fishing boats, coasters and even a 150ft superyacht built in wood for use on the River Plate, the models for which still grace the design studio in Buenos Aires. Today, Germán Frers and his design team continue this work, producing production designs for companies like the Scandinavian builder Storebro Bruks right up to the most advanced superyachts.

The Storebro name can be traced back to 1728 and the north-eastern part of Smaland, Sweden where this company began life as a small foundry producing ships' bells and other castings. Today, it is not iron castings that carry this famous name, but a range of classic lined powerboats which, over the past half-Century, have won a reputation for solid quality, comfort and seaworthiness. The boat that first epitomised these virtues was the Solö - Swedish for 'Island in the Sun'. Three thousand of these 21ft mahogany-built weekenders were launched between 1951 and 1977, and being such sought after craft, examples can still be found across the globe.

Frers and his design team were chosen to produce a worthy successor - a design that would pay homage to the distinctive deck line of the Solö, combined with modern day performance and sea-keeping qualities that will carry the marque well into the 21st Century. The result is the Storebro J34, a weekender first launched in 1998 that with water-jet propulsion, can turn on a sixpence, cuts through waves like a knife through butter and has a top speed of 40knots.

This was followed in 2000 by the launch of the Storebro Grand Series 62, a 34knot water-jet powered flybridge cruiser that in Germán's words 'follows function rather than simple fashion'. She is a thoroughbred that experienced