



Blue Water Sailing

The yachts in this chapter have all been designed with a sense of purpose, for owners who have invariably spent years first dreaming, then planning extended passages and circumnavigations. All these designs have had to combine family home, excellent sea keeping capabilities and what have become the hallmarks of all Frers drawn yachts - good looks and pedigree performance.

There's an old adage that if she looks right – then she will invariably be right. Germán Frers had this instilled into him at an early stage, first by his Father, and later by Rod and Olin Stephens. All had a considerable influence on Germán's early career, and much of the intuitiveness that draws grace and balance to a yacht has now rubbed off on Germán Jnr.

But graceful lines are not something that necessarily come easily. I have watched Germán spend hours in front of a computer screen or sighting lines on a drawing board, seemingly making the minutist of changes to a sheer, transom or coach roof line before becoming satisfied enough to sign off the plans. It is this attention to detail perhaps that sets Frers ahead, but owners, whether they are spending \$100,000 or \$10 million have come to expect nothing less.

There is a distinctive line to all Frers designs, which stand out in a crowded anchorage just as strongly as the Nicholson, Sparkman & Stephens and Ray Hunt creations that Germán could identify from any distance when he was a boy. 'Germán has great style – you can tell that from his choice of wives' Jim Kilroy once joked before adding, 'Actually, I have never seen him produce an ugly boat. He knows instinctively what looks right. That's why I chose him to design *Kialoa V*.'

Some of these 'yachts of purpose' within this chapter like the 83ft *Metolius*, have cruised in both the Arctic and Antarctic and navigated all the major Capes. Gary Comer's 81ft *Turmoil* along with *Mari Cha II* built for Robert Miller, were also built specifically for circumnavigating the Globe in comfort and speed. Volador, the first maxi sized true performance passage cruiser designed back in 1981, was delivered to Australia before returning to cruise the US East coast. And then there is Frers own yacht *Heroina* which, like *Chateau Branaire*, was designed specifically for family holidaying, combining the often opposing attributes; performance mixed with short-handed capabilities.