HEAT TO CELEBRATE THEIR 10TH ANNIVERSARY—AND PERHAPS TO PUT THE INDUSTRY ON NOTICE—MCY UPS THE ANTE BY LAUNCHING THREE NEW MODELS AHEAD OF BOAT SHOW SEASON. BY ALAN HARPER







Like all MCY vessels, the stunning interiors are completed in steel jigs, then lowered with millimeter precision into the hull.



ficient. Fiberglass moldings are built off-site in two plants. While that is going on, the MCY factory is hard at work building complete interiors in millimeter-precise steel jigs. Engines and tanks are installed in empty hulls. Entire, one-piece interior assemblies—two in the case of the their 105—are lowered into place in a matter of minutes. Apparently it takes four to six months to complete a 105 once the hull arrives at Monfalcone. With the smaller models it can be as few as two months.

If it sounds a bit prescriptive, it's not. There are a surprising number of customization options available throughout the range, from the usual fabrics and finishes to the choice of engines. For these three new mod-

els, the shipyard is working on the designs of enclosed flybridge structures for owners in particularly steamy parts of the world. The first one, for a 70, was nearing completion in the yard at the time of our visit.

Perhaps the most eye-catching example of customization aboard the three was the piano on the 76. OK, it was an electric one—no one is going to demand a Steinway grand on a yacht this size—but it had a full-length keyboard and was concealed beneath what looked like a custom-built chart table close to the helm station. It was for the owner's young daughter, so she could keep up her music practice during the summer vacation.

The shipyard is a short distance up a

dredged channel from the sea. We took the 66 out first. It's a three-cabin yacht with fully half of the volume belowdecks dedicated to the midships master stateroom, with its unusually generous head alongside the entrance on the port side. Wide side decks, a Portuguese bridge and a full-beam flybridge are signature traits of MCY design, as is the carbon-fiber hardtop, which oscillated gently, as they all seem to do, as we carved a clean wake across the shallow open waters of the northern Adriatic. They are dotted with fish traps and mussel beds. There are a lot of seafood restaurants in Trieste.

Powerful 1,200-hp MAN V8s on shaft drives gave our 66 a lively turn of speed,



The 70's exquisite open floor plan accentuates the length and beam of the salon seating area.

and excellent handling. The yacht turned willingly with just the right amount of heel, and the trim tabs—manual only, unless you request otherwise—proved very effective. Searching for an economical cruising speed, I discovered that a 50 percent downward offset at about 1800 rpm boosted our speed by half a knot, and the yacht planed happily at 19 knots for a safe cruising range of just under 250 nautical miles.

Climbing aboard the 70 felt like a definite step up. The lower helm is set well forward across from a large open-plan galley, which accentuates the length and beam of the salon seating area. The private aft companionway down to the master stateroom is a luxurious touch, and the standard lower-deck layout includes two good-sized twin-berth guest cabins.

Weighing in some five tons heavier than its smaller sibling, and with commensurate increases in fuel and water capacity, our trial MCY 70 was fitted with the same engines, on V-drives, and consequently—by contrast with the lively demeanor of the 66, at least felt a little under-powered. Top speed was perfectly respectable, but perhaps we are so spoiled by the standards achieved in modern motorvachts that 26 knots felt a little ordinary. Whether it was fair or not, this perceived lack of essential grunt led to the yacht's turning circle and a slightly underwhelming air. MAN 1400s are available as an option. I into quite an engaging drive.

They certainly do a very good job aboard the 76. Representing yet another step up in

the world, there was a faint aura of the superyacht aboard the biggest member of our trio, with its huge salon windows, excellent sightlines and carefully selected Giorgetti furnishings all conspiring to convince you that you have strayed on board a 90-footer. Fully custom decor added to the illusion. There was gray and white oak, reflective lacquered surfaces and Carrara marble.

The standard layout down below is also four cabins, but with just the one companionway—for less privacy, perhaps, but more space. There is one slightly quirky aspect of the interior design. In the master suite you walk through the dressing room to get to the head and shower. It looks fine, but I did find myself wondering what the humidity would do to your silk shirts.

Although it brings another 7 tons to the scales, the extra power available to the 76 gave it almost the same top speed as the 70. And the way that power was delivered was something else. Nothing felt lacking, and the torquey MAN 1400s gave the yacht the sort of poise and attitude that might persuade you that even big flybridge yachts can be fun to

The wind had picked up during the course of the day, along with the temperature. A short chop on the shallow seas was batted aside nonchalantly as we headed toward shore, handling feeling fairly ponderous, with a wide to thread our way back through the mussel farms and into the channel. At the shipyard, all was quiet as the crews secured their yachts imagine that these would transform the 70 for the night and thunderclouds gathered. It wouldn't be long before yet another Cannes boat show opened its gates. But MCY seemed all set to burnish that legend. □







