

concept ▶ design ▶ construction  
**MEGAYACHTS**

*The On-Board Office*

*A/V System Innovations* [+]

*Tender Launch Logistics*

*Helicopter Landing Pads*

*Waterborne Wellness Centers*

*Balcony and Terrace Evolution*

**TREND SPOTTER**  
NIMBLE MOTHERSHIPS

**Rob Doyle Design** ▲

Rob Doyle makes a persuasive argument for the latest shadow/support vessel off his drawing board, citing cases where trying to include everything in one vessel doesn't work. "A shadow vessel can take the load off of logistics, leaving the owner the privacy and flexibility to enjoy the yacht as it should be—without complications," says Doyle. His economic analysis concluded that two smaller boats with different roles are a significantly better option, especially if the support boat remains with the owner long-term while the yacht changes as the owner's needs evolve. "This is about keeping superyachts as yachts and not straying into the domain

of shipping," stresses the designer. Doyle, who was lead designer for Ron Holland for 18 years before opening his own studio this year in Ireland, shows a 47-meter (154') Explorer Support Vessel with discreet lines and good sea keeping. The arrangement supports extra food and fuel storage, accommodations for pilots or staff and the capability to carry aircraft and large tenders while remaining under

500GT. Doyle also has just the yacht to go with it, a 120-foot sloop he calls a "café racer" with an angular superstructure and brightwork on deck that belies her performance underbody. This design has a 28.5-foot beam, an 18-foot draft and in regatta mode displaces 130 tons. She also has enough fuel and water tankage to cruise well and a 500hp main engine.

