

Go with the flow

Forget dry land – for many, there’s no better place to live than on the water. Here, two owners of two very different house boats explain why they prefer life on the river’s edge

Words EMMA LOVE



Interior The open-plan interior has been designed by Rue Verte (rueverte.dk), a lifestyle concept store in Copenhagen whose owners style the floating homes Jesper designs. Here, in his own home, the palette is all-white with wooden accents and cosy textiles

Veranda For Jesper, the view is part of the design, so plenty of floor-to-ceiling sliding doors and windows have been incorporated to let in natural light. “The outdoor area is as important as the indoors,” he says of the terrace that completely surrounds his home



NORDIC CHARM

Jesper Dirk Andersen lives on a wooden and concrete boat in Copenhagen harbour with his family. He is owner and managing director of Dirk Marine, which builds floating homes all over the world.

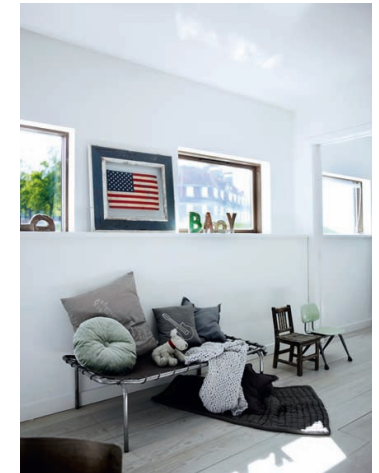
‘Living on the water is popular in Denmark even though, as in many other places, it can be hard to find a mooring. My family spend a lot of time on deck; my children can swim and fish from there. When I look out of my bedroom window in the morning, I sometimes see cygnets swimming past.

The interior of my home is typically Scandinavian: white, wooden and in harmony with nature. The view is part of the decor, so we have sliding windows in all four corners. That way, depending on where the wind is coming from, we can always keep one open. Everyone who visits says that they feel as though they’re outside, even when they’re not. We don’t need air-conditioning and in winter, we heat the house with a pump system that extracts heat from the surrounding water.

Everything I build is custom-designed. My home has mahogany for the superstructure, an open-plan upper floor and a terrace. I use concrete for the hulls because it doesn’t rust or require any maintenance, and good acoustics are a must – I always integrate Bang & Olufsen music systems. Because my floating houses are designed to be homes from the beginning, they all have modern installations such as underfloor heating and LED lighting.

I like to call living on the water “quality living”, because compared with our stressful modern way of life, it’s calm and peaceful. And when we need to go shopping or to the cinema, we take our second car – a speedboat!’
dirkmarine.com ▶

WORDS: EMMA LOVE; PICTURES: NIKO



‘I like to call living on the water “quality living”, because compared with our stressful modern way of life, it’s calm and peaceful’



PICTURES: NIKO; INTERIORS: RUE VERT

