

News Release

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The Future is Floating: First “Barge Yacht” Fully Customizable, Year-Round House on the Water is Afloat

St. Lawrence Barge Yachts Owners, Rich Rossmassler & Julia Purcell, Collaborate with Jonathan Taylor, Founder of Taylored Architecture, to Design & Build Dream Boats

Thousand Islands, New York, September 22, 2017 – The idea for the St. Lawrence Barge Yacht was first cultivated by Rich Rossmassler and Julia Purcell of Thousand Islands and Brooklyn, New York, when they determined that a moveable and flexible water-based home boasting the opportunity for ever-changing scenery and perspective would best fit their lifestyles. Mr. Rossmassler and Ms. Purcell teamed up with Thousand Islands-based architect Jonathan Taylor, Ms. Purcell’s father, experienced residential and boat builder Tim Purcell, and other industry leaders to create the first St. Lawrence Barge Yacht, which was completed in Summer 2017.

“Our goal with this project was to live life as freely and as off-grid as possible, celebrating changing landscapes, while running predominantly off of our solar panels and enjoying food from our onboard garden,” says Ms. Purcell, wife of Mr. Rossmassler, co-founder of Le JIT Productions, and co-owner of St. Lawrence Barge Yachts. “After much dreaming about this project along the shores of the St. Lawrence River we are now afloat, enjoying the opportunities to drift, anchor, motor, and dock at our choosing.”

Float 52’, Mr. Rossmassler and Ms. Purcell’s prototype and personal Barge Yacht, a two-story home with a third-story roof deck, is part beach club and part loft space. The minimalist design features an open plan layout with flexible furnishings allowing for a variety of configurations and uses. Aesthetic features include sharp contemporary angles, walls of bronze Marvin Windows, ombré kitchen cabinetry, and expansive indoor/outdoor openings, including a retractable full wall-width glass garage door flanking the living area and recessing bar/kitchen window. Natural, sustainable, recyclable, and biodegradable material choices were selected wherever possible. The Barge Yacht boasts a solar panel pergola above the bridge, compost toilet, and garden greywater filtration system. The final design and construction details were created with the help of residential and commercial architect, Jonathan Taylor.

“When Rich came to me in 2015 with the opportunity to collaborate on his long-term dream, I was immediately drawn to be a part of this project,” says Mr. Taylor, founder and principal of Taylored Architecture. “We worked together to bring Rich’s sketches into reality, providing concepts for design integration and construction detailing on the house portion of the project. It was great to see this great, big idea turn into reality. Many people dream, but Rich and Julia were able to manifest their dreams in an extraordinary way.”

Mr. Rossmassler and Ms. Purcell’s Barge Yacht was constructed with a steel hull, cedar clad wood frame, and copper standing seam overhangs. The vessel boasts more than 100 feet of dock space along starboard and port sides, providing ample room for visitors and support vessels. A 12x12 foot hydraulic bow ramp is ideal for launching small watercraft, lounging, and landing to shore. And, a shallow draft of just 16 inches makes any waterfront property accessible. The overall area of the vessel’s exterior is 1,716 square feet and offers 850 square feet of interior living space. Two helm stations, one located in the living area and another on the top deck, control the vessel’s two Mercury Verado 175 hp outboard engines. Hydraulic brackets provide additional trim control and allow motors to be serviced and winterized while the vessel is iced.

“Form and functionality were equally important to me when helping to plan the design and construction of our Barge Yacht,” says Mr. Rossmassler, husband of Ms. Purcell, Brooklyn-based real estate developer, and co-owner of St. Lawrence Barge Yachts. “We didn’t cut any corners with this vessel and also learned how to streamline the process for prospective owners of St. Lawrence Barge Yachts. We’ve developed a new approach to boating and water-based living. For those interested, we encourage you to jump in.”

St. Lawrence Barge Yachts are custom built, and therefore, may be customized to fit a variety of lifestyles and needs. Visit slbargeyachts.com and tayloredarch.com for more.

About St. Lawrence Barge Yachts

Sharing a love of the water, dreaming, and creating, St. Lawrence Barge Yachts founders and owners, Rich Rossmassler and Julia Purcell, worked with a team of professionals to create the first Barge Yacht for personal use on the majestic St. Lawrence River. Part beach club and part loft space, their first Barge Yacht features an open plan layout with flexible furnishings allowing for a variety of configurations and uses. Customers are able to now order their own fully customizable Barge Yachts to fit a variety of lifestyles. Learn more at <http://www.slbargeyachts.com>.

About Taylored Architecture

Taylored Architecture PLLC is an inspired, full service architectural firm specializing in producing unique solutions for your residential and commercial design needs. Our goal is to create beautiful designs that seamlessly integrate into their surroundings with elegance. We tune into each specific site's characteristics, such as light, orientation, views and terrain to develop works of functional beauty. Learn more at www.tayloredarch.com.

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