



While *Cakewalk*'s early beginnings can be traced back to 2005, the first metal was not cut until 2007. The scale model was unveiled at the September 2008 Monaco Yacht Show. That same week Lehman Brothers bit the dust and the credit crisis created widespread mayhem. The *Cakewalk* project forged full steam ahead.

Having followed the build, I had seen her many times at various stages of completion. Still, I was duly impressed when I saw *Cakewalk* in full glory at her grand debut party held in conjunction with the International SeaKeepers Society at the 2010 Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show. From every vantage point, *Cakewalk* makes a stunning statement.

The realization of this enterprising undertaking is attributable first and foremost to her visionary owner. Having owned several megayachts (including two Fead-

ships), this Colorado businessman is no novice to the luxury yacht world. The owner and Zinser, his loyal captain for more than 16 years, investigated all possible yards before deciding to award the build to Derektor Shipyards.

Much to-do has been made of this boat being US-built. It is common knowledge to anyone who has been reading about *Cakewalk* that the owner set out to prove that in America we can build a boat as well as the European builders. During an economic recession and with nearly 10 percent unemployment in the United States, this makes for a nice story, which has been broadly communicated to the international press.

While it is true that the boat was built at an American yard, *Cakewalk* was a collaborative effort involving people of many nationalities. Exterior designer Tim

OWNER'S DECK: This deck amounts to a seven-room suite with an oak-paneled bar and salon, which doubles as a cinema. The aft deck provides for elegant dining. A gym, yoga studio, beauty salon and massage room precede the bedroom



It's a cakewalk," in modern vernacular, indicates that something is effortless or easy. The expression originated in the early days of American slavery and derives from a kind of strutting dance around a circle or a chalk line. The "cakewalk" dance hit its pinnacle of recognition at the 1876 Centennial of American Independence in Philadelphia; the winning performing couple of the "2/4 step dance" was awarded a gigantic cake. In 1902, Scott Joplin immortalized the term cakewalk in his folk ballet, *The Ragtime Dance*.

So does her namesake define the *Cakewalk* in these pages? Was this easy victory? Piece of cake? Child's play? ...Hardly. The making of *Cakewalk* has been an extremely challenging venture, but according to all involved with her creation, both the process and the results have proved extremely rewarding.

Cakewalk is arguably the most celebrated yacht built in the United States in decades. At 281' (85.6m), she is the largest American-built yacht by length since JP Morgan's *Corsair IV* was launched at the onset of the Great Depression, and just shy of 3,000 tons, she is the largest yacht by volume ever built here. Just as *Corsair IV* was, *Cakewalk* was built during a depressed economic time. Bill Zinser, *Cakewalk*'s owner's representative, says the owner had "the guts to do the first real European-style superyacht at an American yard, taking a tremendous risk at one of the worst times in history." Zinser adds that "history will prove it was a smart move."

