

Cruise & Ferry Interiors

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Revolutionising refits

From a fast turnaround on a concept-to-completion upgrade for Oceania Cruises' ships, marine company Precetti proposes prefabricated design as an innovative approach for refurbishments

In back-to-back projects lasting nearly six weeks from the end of March 2014, Miami-based marine design-and-outfitting specialist Precetti completed a comprehensive total of 1800sqm of refit projects on three different vessels in two different locations.

A new Terrace Café and Waves Grill was installed by the company on each of Oceania Cruises' sister ships – Insignia, Nautica and Regatta – the first two in drydock in Marseille, France and the latter in Vancouver, Canada.

Acting as general contractor and also designing the interiors on the turnkey project, the US company's in-house staff – led by interior designer Cinzia Saettone – promptly proposed a substantial change to the Lido deck's popular Terrace Café. The design team departed from French Riviera colours to a more stylish and classic theme in keeping with the cruise line's high-quality offering. Soft, warm colours were blended with teak, real leather, tobacco-glass mosaics and slate-style porcelain walls, to define the new space.

The refurbished areas included a new A60 cooking island – where guests can watch their food being prepared – new flooring, ceilings, walls and food counters, as well as service and beverage stations. A mosaic wave design on both walls and food counters added an extra finish, while additional ventilation and extraction equipment, as well as new safety systems have also been installed.

"We are delighted to have finished the entire project in a very short timeframe and to the complete satisfaction of the client," Precetti president Paolo Passalacqua says. "It proves our capabilities in providing turnkey services to the cruise industry from initial concepts, through material and colour selections and full manufacturing, to taking care of electrical, safety, HVAC installations, new piping systems and refrigeration."

Passalacqua believes that the marine industry will increasingly demand solutions such as these with a strong design capability,



A mosaic wave design put the final touch to the Waves Grill casual dining area on Oceania ships

as well as an in-house fabrication and worldwide turnkey installations.

"Our factory has established expertise in manufacturing USPHS-standard stainless steel food equipment for cruise ship catering spaces," he says. "In addition, it now has the facilities for prefabricating structures for decorating food outlets – wall sections, ceilings and floors – enabling it to merge stainless steel with more sophisticated materials such as marble, stone, ceramic and wood. Integrating different materials or extensive use of elements prefabricated in the factory is sometimes the only viable solution when drydock periods are short."

Prefabrication has enabled Precetti to successfully complete demanding and complex projects that were previously not feasible. "In the past five years, prefabrication of a variety of structures and decorative materials on a single project carried out

to the same design, manufacturing and installing brief, has become our competitive advantage," says Passalacqua. "Modular wall and ceiling panels for prefabricated cabins and assembly kit wall panels for passenger cabins and suites are being used for the first time in designs for the retrofit market. These products offer a greater flexibility and weight-saving benefits – retaining a similar quality to those on newbuilds – and are set to be certified towards the end of 2014."

Making the most of its manufacturing capability in ensuring a competitive edge, Precetti is also developing new designs for cruise ships. These include USPHS-compliant catering equipment produced in a more energy efficient way, aided by technological advances such as robot laser welding, pressure PU insulation and creating more efficient air flow inside refrigeration units. **C&F**

"The refit of Oceania Cruises ships proves our capabilities in providing turnkey services to the industry"

and more than 50 years to prove it



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