

THE POWER OF RECOGNISABILITY



Constant oversight, a family spirit and an orchestra of expert artisans. Fulvio Codecasa's daily presence at the yard still ensures that every Codecasa yacht receives the personal touch. Elegance, proportions and a distinctive look remain the guiding principles of his creativity and define the yard's unmistakeable style

by Paola Bertelli - ph. courtesy by Codecasa

Some stories begin with three rapid pencil lines. Fulvio Codecasa has never abandoned this approach, and maintains his habit of revelling every day in the organised hubbub of the hangars, even though he is now over 80 years old.

"Many of our yachts began life as one of my sketches, a precise idea that came into being in my mind. I just pick up a pencil and a sheet of paper and draw", he says. This spontaneous, almost ritualistic action gives rise to the aesthetic identity that makes every Codecasa build so distinctive. The sketch is the original creative act, the moment when a line, a proportion and a project's personality is decided.

Fulvio has vivid memories of the sketch for Family Day, a 65-metre yacht launched in 2010 for a Hong-Kong based owner. It was simple drawing, three lines, one above the other. "They made fun of me because they said that you couldn't see the sea from the helm station, but that was absolutely not true. The Codecasa Jet 2020 design started life like that, too, starting from an idea, a sheet of paper and a pencil. Yachts mean everything to me, I'm always thinking about them", he says. This initial gesture isn't a whim, it's the foundation stone for every project – it guides the process, shapes the design and influences the engineering.



Fulvio Codecasa taking part in the excitement of a launch. The yard is one of the last to use skids to guide craft into the water, a method charged with tradition and charm. To side, the Codecasa family with Fulvio in the centre. To his left, his daughters Fulvia and Elena and son-in-law Ennio Buonomo; to his right his grandchildren Matteo, Chiara and Niccolò and son-in-law Fabio Lofrese



Every day Fulvio Codecasa enters the yard at seven in the morning. “I can’t imagine a day of my life without going to the yard”, he says. He’s a constant presence until 5 pm, supervising, giving advice, correcting. He does all this with an expert eye that takes in everything he sees – a ceiling panel to refit, an out-of-scale handle, dining tables to redesign, sofas or bar units to adapt to various needs, armchairs and seats designed to suit clients’ physiognomy. He has an acute awareness of ergonomics and has taught those working with him to propose solutions that are adapted to the client, skilfully calibrated, blending aesthetics and well-being.

“No solution is good enough if it’s not excellent”, they say in the technical office. “Working under his gaze means learning to raise the bar all the time. It’s like making a bespoke suit – every stitch, every seam must be in its place, no matter if it’s hidden from view”. Fulvio Codecasa likes to compare the yard to an orchestra. “There are carpenters, electricians, plumbers, marble workers, painters, each with their own tool, their own speciality. The sound they produce when they’re working together, with the yacht taking shape, piece by piece, always gives me a thrill”.

Fulvio Codecasa does not experience the shipyard alone. The family

Codecasa is and seeks to remain an artisanal shipyard. It delivers an average of two craft per year, a rhythm that enables it to maintain high quality levels and a direct relationship with owners, collaborators and suppliers. Currently under construction, a 57-metre (above) and a 58-metre yacht (right), both set for delivery in 2026. These are taking shape under the watchful eye of Fulvio Codecasa (to side, top), who still arrives at the yard with his legendary punctuality at seven every morning



[A DYNASTIC SHIPYARD]

Among the most recent launches, the 58 metre Kathryn (right), and Gioia (bottom right and left), the sixth unit in the successful Vintage 43 metre series, a line introduced in 2011 with the aim of offering superyachts below 500 GT with a classic, timeless appeal. The main deck saloon features large windows, steel and mirrors that make the spaces look larger than they are



Family Day (right) began as a sketch by Fulvio Codecasa, three simple lines, one above the other, that sparked off a creative process that led to the design and construction of this 65-metre craft. Below right and left, Regina d'Italia, the Dolce & Gabbana yacht that is now for sale. The style in the interiors is unmistakeable – in the owner's suite the mink bedspread transforms itself into a carpet.



dimension is an integral part of this ecosystem. By his side work his daughters Fulvia and Elena, sons-in-law Ennio Buonomo and Fabio Lofrese and his grandchildren Matteo, Niccolò and Chiara. “Being surrounded by my family at work is great success for me, it means I’ve made it”, he says. The values passed on are not just technical, like the ability to read a drawing, know a wood, understand a curve in the hull, but also human – dedication, sacrifice and humility. The sketch, the initial idea, leads on to the rendering and 3D CAD models. The engineers and architects in the design team collaborate to transform the idea into a sailing reality. This is achieved through hydrodynamic CFD simulations, structural analyses and structural, weight and performance considerations. The stylistic details requested by Fulvio have led to innovative and functional solutions like the extension of the hard top to shade the relaxation areas more effectively

and the elimination of the central mast in the Vintage 43 series, made possible by the introduction of the roll bar, which transformed the sun deck into one of the yacht’s more comfortable spaces. “Fulvio Codecasa has always had a personal and aesthetic vision of yachts – clean lines, balanced volumes and elegant proportions”, say his collaborators. The idea should become technical without losing elegance, and every stylistic modification involves calculations, testing and adjustments. And it’s a constant balance – beauty and functionality, design and comfort, aesthetic detail and safety standards. Members of the creative and technical team learn by observing Fulvio – how to select materials, handle surfaces, decide that a furnishing should be simplified, how to lighten a colour or that decorative detail should be eliminated to enhance spatial fluidity. He also regards listening as crucial – listening to owners, understanding their desires but also

listening to the sea, technology and physics. And the moment of the launch arrives. It never loses its appeal. Even after years of work, launching a vessel is still pure emotion. “It’s like a child leaving home and following his own path”. It’s a time for celebration – the family, the staff, the yard, all united. It’s the completion of an idea, the culmination of years of work, effort and precision. If he had to define the Codecasa style in one word, Fulvio would say “identity”. Recognisability is preserved, even when it is innovated. Style is not ostentation, it’s perceived value. It’s a balance between simplicity, safety, comfort and elegance. To him, “Silent luxury” means a yacht that excites without raising the volume – clean lines, measured proportions, bright but not loud interiors, materials that are refined without being ostentatious. It is seeing the yacht and recognising it, even years later. It’s knowing that comfort isn’t measured in gadgets but how people

move through the interiors, how shade falls on a relaxation deck, how silence is a vital part of night-term sailing. When we asked him if he had ever refused a project because it didn’t reflect the yard’s philosophy, Fulvio Codecasa’s unequivocal response was “Of course, it’s happened frequently. I have a firm belief in our philosophy and principles, and I’m the kind of man who finds it hard to compromise.” This “no” is just as important as every “yes” he has given – it’s the restrictions that preserve identity. What would he say to the Fulvio Codecasa of forty years ago? “I’d tell him to do exactly what I’ve done. I have no complaints or regrets. Every choice, even if it wasn’t easy, every challenge and every result has shaped my path”. The motto that still defines him is “Avanti Tutta!” (“Full ahead”, ed. note) Not a war cry but a daily promise.