



# FIRST LOVE Second Time Around

*James Keenan fell for a classic yacht in 1981.*

*He's bought her back and restored her, and now he's happier than ever.*

When James Keenan learned that his first love was on the market again, he knew he had to have her. The temptation of a reunion with the *Trianon*, a sleek Trumpy yacht he owned in the 1980s, was too great to resist.

His love affair with the 83-foot *Trianon* began in 1981. He owned her for six years before trading her in for a 143-footer. When he found her for sale again in 1997, she was in a sorry state, a ghost of her former self and eons removed from her original splendor. James made a vow to restore her, and with the help of interior designer Jack Phillips and devoted captain Joaquin Freire, she is loved once again.

James' affection for the water is reflected in the 13 boat purchases he has made over the years, from 55 feet on up. "Yachts tend to get bigger and bigger," he says. "But we started downsizing with a 110-foot Broward; we soon sold that one, too."

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The aft of the 83-foot cruiser *Trianon* provides a bright spot for entertaining. "We can serve eight for dinner here," says owner James Keenan. The teak settees replicate the original Trumpy-built seating. For aesthetic reasons, all modern electronics are concealed.



After buying the *Trianon* the second time, James undertook a three-and-a-half-year renovation. Built in 1960, its elegant bones—double-planked Philippine mahogany over white oak, plus Burmese teak railings and deck—are part and parcel of the company that was considered America's premier manufacturer of yachts from 1910 until shortly after Norwegian-born John Trumpy's death in 1963. (The company was dissolved in 1973.) James installed new wiring, replaced the air-conditioning system, overhauled the engines, and installed modern electronic amenities such as a sound system and an entertainment center.

For the interiors, James called designer Jack Phillips. Jack, who divides his time between New York and Palm Beach, recalls an immediate meeting of the minds during their first encounter. "As a traditional designer, I have always eschewed a glitzy treatment of yachts," says Jack. "James and I both wanted a boat that would be in classic, great taste instead of the pseudo-glamorous decoration that would have destroyed the *Trianon's* historical value.

"Amusingly," continues Jack, "we both came up with the same favorite colors—navy blue, white, and shades of khaki—what I like to call my 'Ralph Lauren' color scheme." As for the lustrous mahogany paneling, built-in cabinetry, and teak decks, the men agreed it would be a grave mistake to do anything but restore them properly.

Jack essentially started from scratch with the new design plan. "Designing the interior of a boat is



three times more difficult than designing a house because the custom orientations and sizing are so specific," Jack says. He worked with his trademark fabrics—cottons, linens, wools, and leather—that reflect a timeless elegance, yet are still able to withstand the salt air and sun. "The only synthetic fabrics I used were on the aft deck cushions," he says, referring to Sunbrella's mildew- and sun-resistant properties. "After all, the Trumpys were originally built before synthetic fabrics were available."

The main cabin, or saloon, and forward lounge offer comfortable, upholstered seating in royal blue cotton with white piping. Jack says royal blue is more fade resistant than other colors. Chinese Export porcelain in blue and white reinforce the theme.

For the master stateroom, Jack designed a crisp, channel-quilted bedcover to go on the king-size bed. Traditional swing-arm lamps add warm, diffused light and save space on bedside tables. Accents such as 19th-century English coffee tables and 1830s mahogany Biedermeier chairs underscore the historic appeal of this vessel.

No matter what course she takes, the handsomely restored *Trianon* shines. And James Keenan is happily reunited with his first, true love. 🌸  
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A built-in wet bar in the aft offers guests cocktails on their way out to the deck. Traditional furnishings include an English coffee table and comfortable upholstered pieces. The updated master stateroom head (left) has efficient storage. Caning adorns cabinet doors, customary on vintage yachts.