

# Nothing spared on massive yacht

Daily Dispatch Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The biggest-ever yacht under construction in South Africa, a 40 m mega-monster worth R25m, is being completed by a Cape Town yacht building company commissioned by an American millionaire — and will exude opulence when launched.

An award-winning American interior architect and the first woman in her field, Miss Susan Puleo, has been brought to Cape Town to design the luxury interior, which will sport gold taps, gold-plated shower rails, ostrich skin surfaces, inlaid floors, hand-carved woodwork from beautifully-coloured indigenous wood such as African rose-wood, and tiger's eye inlay on the corners of wooden surfaces.

The single-hull yacht which will have a 46 m (14-storey) high single mast is being built at Sterling Yachts in the harbour and has taken two years and 86 full-time employees to reach its current stage.

It will have a spa bath in the en suite master bathroom off the main cabin, two "his and her" dressing rooms, three guest cabins, a main saloon area with bar, crew quarters — where both the engineer and the captain's cabins have en suite bathrooms — and of course the essential parts such as an engine room.

The owner, whose identity may not be disclosed, will need a six-person crew to operate the yacht and will be in Cape Town to sail it to Mauritius and then to his native United States.

The company director, Mr André van Niekerk, expects a finished product in a few months and said the biggest yacht built by his company prior to this one was 23 m.