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Luce5 Yachting

With over 30 years of experience in bespoke lighting projects, Tuscany-based Luce5 takes a distinctive approach to onboard lighting by leveraging its experience of working with high-end fashion brands, including Prada, Fendi, Tiffany and Bulgari.

BY GEORGIA TINDALE

Riccardo Di Bene

After expanding into the yachting sector in 2017, Luce5 has applied its high-end retail DNA to superyachts from the get-go. Drawing on its technical and design expertise through work with luxury fashion brands, it aimed to bring technical value and bespoke capabilities to the yachting sector with an innovative and distinctive approach. Riccardo Di Bene, co-founder of Luce5 Yachting, worked for Azimut-Benetti and Prada before joining the company, an experience that enabled him to understand the importance of lighting in the high-end luxury sector.

"My years in luxury retail, especially at Prada, taught me that light is not just about visibility but about mood, materiality, and brand identity," he says. "That philosophy now drives everything we do at Luce5, from yachts to flagship stores."

With the majority of its output still focused on luxury retail, the company remains deeply embedded in fashion brand work, including a long-term partnership with Prada and major recent projects with Tiffany, Fendi, Bulgari, Langosteria and David Yurman. This includes the Tiffany store in Milan's Via Monte Napoleone, which in 2025 was named "the most beautiful emporium in the world" by Prix Versailles, the global architecture and design awards that recognise exceptional contemporary projects.

Luce5's approach to quality control in all of its projects, including yachting, is shaped by this experience. It brings a rigorous process to lighting by carrying out detailed calculations and verifications before any scheme is approved. Using specialist software, the team produces photorealistic renderings that show the real expected effect of the lighting installations on board, including brightness levels and the way light plays across specific materials and shapes. This allows designers and owners to review and fine-tune the atmosphere on screen before a single fitting is installed.

These techniques, long standard in luxury fashion retail but still relatively new to yachting, reduce unwanted surprises and ensure that the final result aligns precisely with the intended mood and experience. »

Left: Luce5 engineered and installed two signature chandeliers aboard *Camila*, a 49.5-metre Bilgin yacht with interior design by Hot Lab.

Another area where Luce5 is increasingly involved is the development of circadian-friendly lighting and "virtual window" systems, which recreate natural daylight cycles indoors on yachts using custom-made products and technologies.

"In this way, we align interior light with human biological rhythms and create a much more comfortable environment on board," says Di Bene. "First developed for high-end retail, it is now being applied both in yachts and in flagship stores, as more and more clients ask us for natural, health-conscious lighting solutions."

In yachting, Luce5 positions itself firmly as a project- rather than a product-based partner. While the company offers catalogues and ready-made fixtures, its core identity lies in delivering turnkey lighting projects, from lighting concept development through to prototyping, production, installation and commissioning, so that even "a few downlights" are treated as a tailored solution in their own right.

Showcased at the recent Milan Design Week in April, as well as at last year's Metstrade show, Luce5's latest innovation is HYLEtech, a newly patented lighting technology that integrates high-efficiency Nex-S LEDs directly into slender, aluminium panels, creating a clean and continuous surface with no visible cabling.

Weighing just 10 kg per square metre – significantly less than the weight of a wooden panel required to achieve the same structural and functional characteristics – while delivering highly controllable, glare-free light across multiple dimming levels, HYLEtech is engineered to cut emissions, simplify installation and give designers far greater freedom in marine and architectural applications. In addition, because aluminium is 100 per cent recyclable, HYLEtech forms a key part of the company's circular-economy strategy.

Despite only formally entering the yacht market less than ten years ago, Luce5 Yachting has already become one of the key players in the sector, working with all the leading Italian shipyards and now moving into partnerships with leading Northern European builders as well. Yachting currently represents around 10 percent of the group's turnover, but the company has grown the segment deliberately and sustainably.

Di Bene likens Luce5 Yachting to a boutique restaurant that opened with three tables, starting with just one to be sure about the service, the organisation, and the food, so clients would leave satisfied and eager to return: "Only then did we serve the second table, and now we're getting ready to start with the third, growing step by step."

"For us, the luminaires are just the final output of a much bigger package of services: concept, engineering, prototyping, production, installation and commissioning," he concludes. "Our goal is to be a true lighting partner, offering a project-based approach that makes a real difference for shipyards, designers and owners."