

## ***Project Amazon*: An Open Class 60 Sailboat for Single-Handed Round-the-World Racing**

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*Project Amazon* is a custom-designed Open Class 60 sailboat that began development in 1992. Detail design took place in 1995-96, and construction occurred in 1996-97. *Project Amazon* is an aluminum cat-ketch with two carbon fiber, free-standing, rotating wingmasts, an aluminum asymmetrical swinging keel, and twin carbon fiber, daggerboard-style rudders. Followers of the Around Alone and Vendée Globe single-handed, around-the-world races and developments of Open Class 60 sailboats may find these features unusual because collectively they do not fit mainstream racing sailboat design. None of *Project Amazon's* design features is totally new to sailboat naval architecture. These ideas have all been tried before, and all have been successful. But this is probably the first time that so many innovations have been combined into a single major racing sailboat design.

### **Introduction**

ANY VESSEL DESIGN, whether a racing sailboat such as this, or a cargo ship, begins life from a list of owner's require-

ments. *Project Amazon's* owner, Sebastian Reidl (RI-dle, rhymes with bridle), had requirements much the same as all round-the-world single-handed racing skippers: the boat must be fast, strong, reliable, and easy to sail in a wide variety of conditions, from dead calm in the doldrums to gales with 100 ft (30 m) waves in the Southern Ocean. This sailboat is to be a machine, not a fancy yacht. It must be easy to fix should anything break, which is bound to happen somewhere, sometime. Everything in the boat is designed to mini-

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