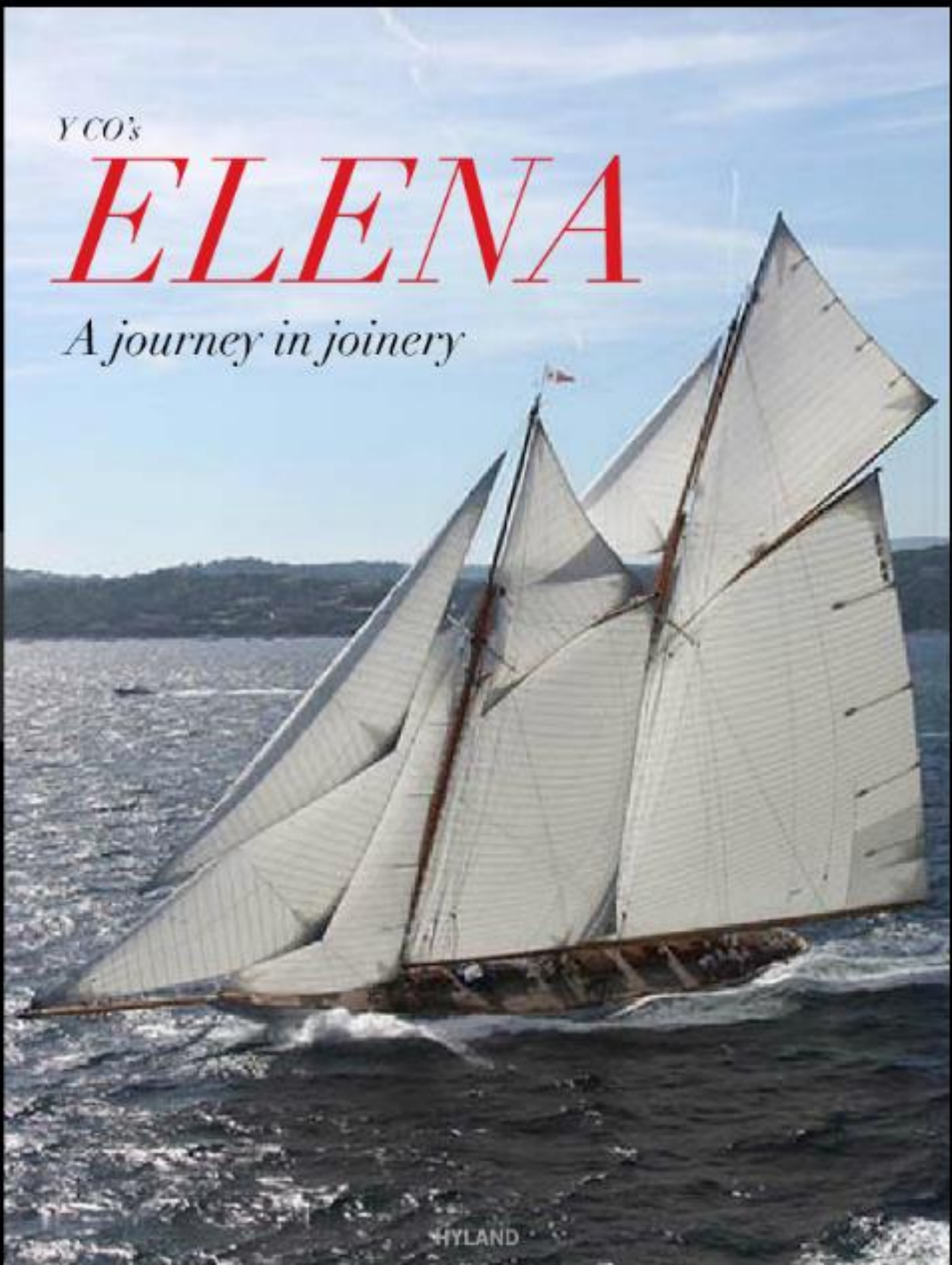


YCO's

ELENA

A journey in joinery



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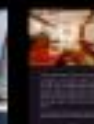




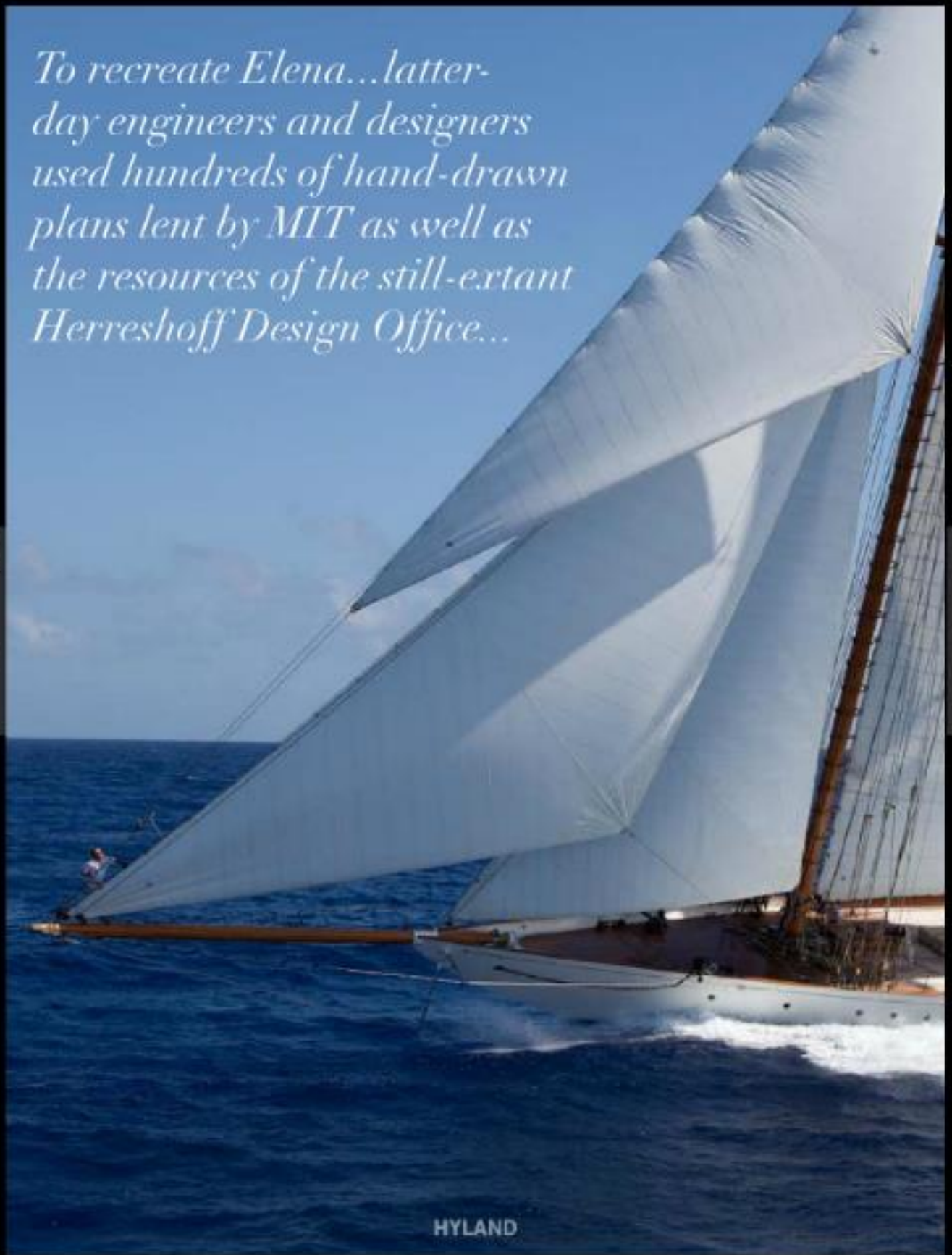
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here is a certain interior one expects from a ship--wooden--in a word, ship-shape; a standard of joinery not seen outside a Japanese teahouse. Such is *Elena*: the elegant 2009 recreation of the famous 1928 racing schooner built by the legendary nautical designer, "The Wizard of Bristol," Nathaniel Herreshoff. *Elena* is equally suited to Classic Yacht regatta or gentle family cruise; its period interiors inspire moments of repose, while its capacious polished teak decks are perfect for dining al fresco. To recreate *Elena* in all her 55 meter glory, latter-day engineers and designers used hundreds of hand-drawn plans lent by MIT as well as the resources of the still-extant Herreshoff Design Office in Bristol, Rhode Island, overseen by Nathaniel Herreshoff's grandson, Halsey Herreshoff.

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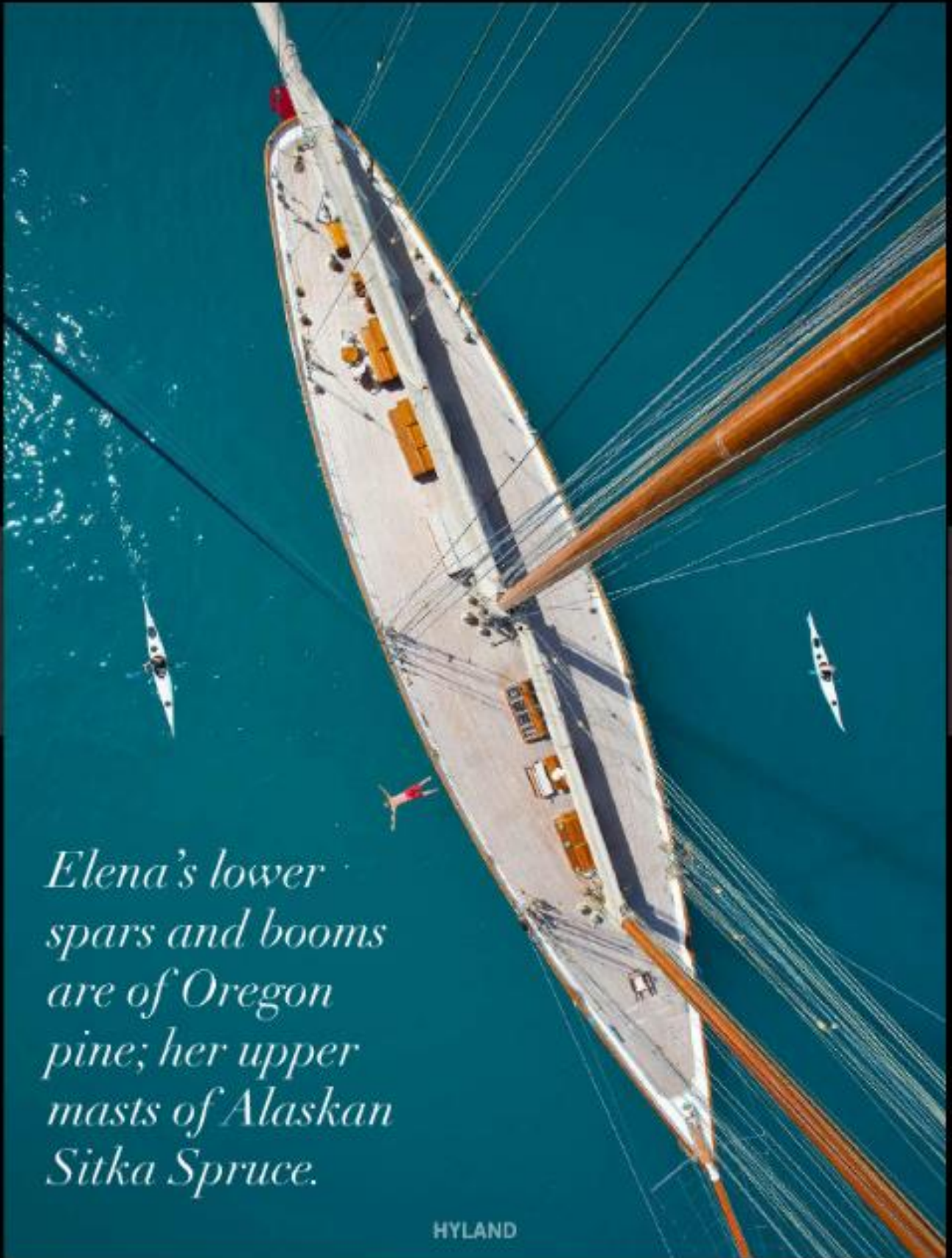


There is reason behind the faithful reproduction--more a resurrection--of Herreshoff's original 1910 design. So flawless--a work of genius--was his rigging plan of 1911 that when it was tested through a purpose-built computer program for Braker masts and spars, the results proved that Herreshoff could not be bettered for strength and lightness despite almost a century of developments in rigging. *Elena's* lower spars and booms are of Oregon pine; her upper masts of Alaskan Sitka Spruce.

Accommodation on *Elena* is true as well to Herreshoff's drawings and layout; on the inside, the sailing experience

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is much as it might have been in 1928, when one could luxuriate in the amenities and style of one of the great ages of design. In the main cabin, red leather Chesterfield sofas are ensconced among mahogany paneled walls, beamed ceilings, bookcases and a fully equipped bar. The dining room is Regency, as reinvented with the chic of the 1920s. The three double staterooms and two twin staterooms are places to dream in, the dream come true of being under sail in the most luxurious of circumstances, with mahogany dados, white paneled walls and silken beds.

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One of *Elena's* charter destination is Antibes, on the coast of the Midi. In 1923, Gertrude Stein spent a summer there visiting her great friend Picasso, composing *If I Told Him: A Completed Portrait of Picasso*. Stein found the waves of Antibes to be more than background; they echoed and enveloped Picasso's creative energy. Sail on to Menton, where a fortress built in 1623 houses the must-see Jean Cocteau Museum, a site chosen by the artist himself. *Elena* is a schooner fit for such artistic as well as pure sailing adventures, a poetic vessel made for visiting and revisiting sites of creation, camaraderie and connoisseurship. **H**

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