

Tug Tales #27

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ST 478 lives on...Creatively!

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I mailed a letter out to an address in Paris a few weeks ago that I hoped would be the owner of our **ST 478**, a very possible *Normandy Warboat* now converted into a houseboat. It was purchased from the French Navy as **ST-4**, and can be found on the Western Seine river in Paris.

To my delight the owner, a Mr. Thomas Fournieret, responded and we have been trading photos. As many of you know, I've thought about the advantages of re-purposing a tug into an office and museum and often wondered about the possibilities. We now have some ideas about what can be done. And **ST 478** now becomes the *Taj Mahal of DeLand boats*.

Notice the windows (or the frames!) are slightly curved...not straight. I'm not certain these are original. The large portholes throughout the home seem logical and really use natural light effectively. Bedrooms appear to be in the hull.



Sleeping quarters. The porthole openings really work to open these areas up. Looks like the portholes are hinged and open up as well.



Underwater living at its best!

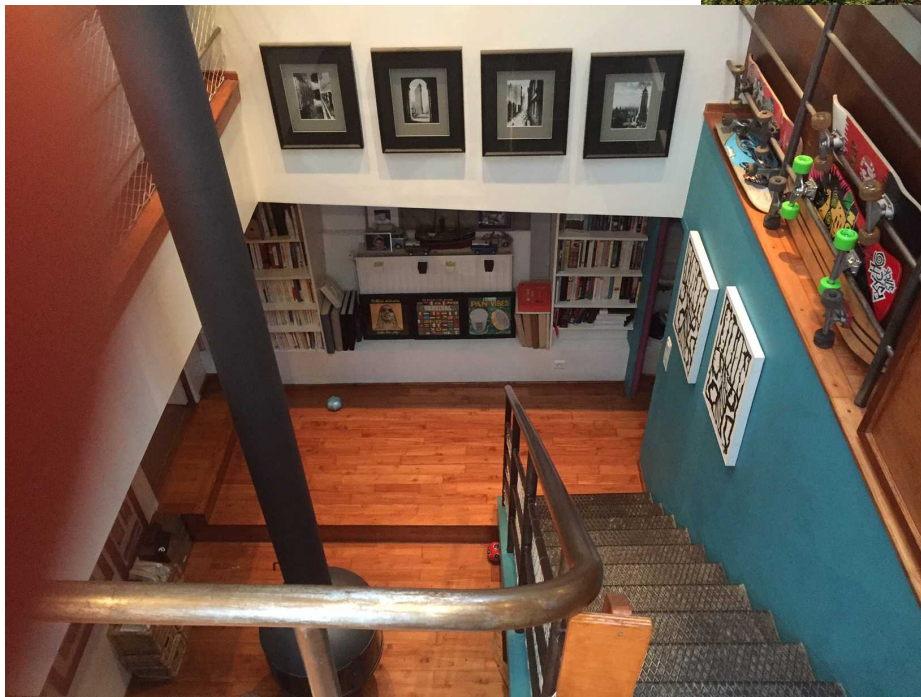
Perhaps the hull area is broken into two "floors"...upper and lower.



This bathtub appears to be up in the 1st floor or upper hull bow area! The shot below appears to be in the first floor of the superstructure looking rearward to the stern. Lots of space well done here. Notice everything has been refinished with modern building materials. Note the long oblong pair of windows in this room

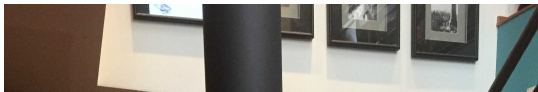


Here's the stern area: an open deck with removable screens for privacy. Lots of portholes look strange but do make it much more livable!



As open as this is, I would think this is the stairwell to the 1st floor of the superstructure from the lower hull area. The black thing hanging down is... hvac? I'll have to ask! Note the hard wood oak floors throughout. Mr. Fourneret has 3 kids and runs 20 restaurants in Paris...note the skateboards on the right.

This interior was built with a "spare no expense" attitude.



Looking forward on the 1st floor of the superstructure. Looks to be about 15 feet wide.

Total useable interior space? Including the hull and 1st floor about 1100+ square feet. I don't have any photos yet of the wheel house or captains' area on the 2nd floor.

Another bathroom somewhere inside probably in the hull. The lower photo is of the extreme forward part of the 1st floor superstructure.



A photo of the exterior with details of the door

