

# Hope Floats

ARKUP AND ARTEFACTO JOIN FORCES IN HIGHLIGHTING THE FUTURE OF HIGH-END RESILIENT LIVING IN THE FIRST YACHT-INSPIRED FLOATING HOME.

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**W**hat do you get when you combine French art de vivre with Dutch maritime tradition and the best of Brazilian design? An ultrastylish, future-proof livable yacht that promises to transform the notion of sustainable waterfront living. And yacht aficionados from around the globe got a taste of what an elevated lifestyle on just such a vessel might be like this past February, when Miami-based startup Arkup unveiled its first-ever floating home at the Miami Yacht Show.

Conceived as a sustainable response to the challenges of urban growth, rising seas and an increasing need for energy independence, Arkup's livable yacht was designed as a self-sufficient waterfront villa that can be docked at a metropolitan marina or anchored in a tranquil bay. "Our solution is a unique avant-garde concept of life on the water," says Arkup's French co-founder and CEO Nicolas Derouin, who developed the

four-bedroom, 4,350-square-foot floating home/yacht with his French-Dutch partner Arnaud Luguét, an engineer and energy industry expert. The revolutionary vessel comes complete with hydraulic pilings or "spuds" that can raise it high above the surface of the water and make it as stable as a house. When elevated above the waves, the solar-powered floating home can also withstand the threat of the high tropical winds and floods that can accompany extreme weather events.

With growing interest in floating houses, which are already popular in Holland and in cities along the West Coast of the U.S., Arkup seized on the idea of being the first to market with an off-the-grid "blue dwelling" for upscale purchasers. The company relied on renewable energies, technological innovation and cutting-edge spatial design to craft the one-of-a-kind vessel, which allows its owners to live autonomously in comfort and luxury between metropolis and sea wherever

The Arkup residence is completely self-sufficient from its ability to withstand extreme weather to its solar-controlled systems. Right from top: Artefacto furnishings in neutral tones brighten the open waterfront.



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—ARKUP CO-FOUNDER AND CEO NICOLAS DEROUIN



their dreams and the water may carry them.

To bring its interiors to life, Arkup tapped high-end Brazilian furnishings brand Artefacto to style the first completed model with its finely crafted contemporary furnishings and accents, many of which are manufactured with organic and sustainable elements that make them an ideal fit for the setting. Within the floating home's expansive 775-square-foot living room, which features floor-to-ceiling sliding glass windows that allow uninterrupted water views, signature Artefacto pieces—from small-scale accessories to large sofas and chairs—define the space like a luxurious modern home. "We wanted it to feel cozy and warm and organic, like it should be—with the French touch that Artefacto has," says Artefacto CEO Paulo Bacchi. To seamlessly bridge indoor and outdoor spaces, Artefacto opted for customized elements in subdued neutral tones of gray and beige that allow the open sea to take center stage. Priced at roughly \$5.4 million, the sleek new groundbreaking floating home was designed to withstand Category 4 winds and adjust to sea-level rise while encompassing all the pragmatic features and functionality of a sophisticated yacht. And fitted out with Artefacto's sumptuous and eco-friendly furnishings, it also represents the future of high-style resilient living at its best. ■