BLUE EYE
UNDERWATER MULTISENSORIAL LOUNGE
The Blue Eye
PONANT
Marking a new generation of expedition ships, PONANT launched Le Lapérouse in June 2018, the first in the line of six new PONANT EXPLORER ships named after famous explorers. The inauguration of Le Lapérouse also marked the first ship in the industry to feature the Blue Eye – a multisensory underwater lounge.
The concept was entrusted to architect Jacques Rougerie. Based on that brief concept, Sébastien Flamant and his team of FLAMANT INTERIOR DESIGN have designed the interior and scenography of this unique space.

Jacques Rougerie
JACQUES ROUGERIE ARCHITECTS
In 1973, Jacques Rougerie designed the first “Village under the Sea” project in the Virgin Islands, made for living and working beneath the sea. For over 40 years, he has continued his path among those building the future, passionate about the prospective of linking man to his natural setting. He has always designed bionic architecture based on biomimetics. The Blue Eye multi-sensory space concept is a world-first and a major innovation in man’s exploration of the underwater world.

“In my work, I have always had my heart set on making people aware of the role that the sea has played in the history of humanity. I designed this multi-sensory underwater lounge in order for it to become enshrined at the heart of the PONANT philosophy. I set out to discover this fragile and exciting ocean world, which covers 71% of the planet’s surface and remains a huge mystery for mankind.
The destiny of the civilisations to come will be born from the ocean. The state-of-the-art technology developed with PONANT lets guests become modern-day explorers, following in the wake of Jules Verne, Jacques-Yves Cousteau and the great adventurers. They will be able to observe the fauna and flora of this sub-aquatic universe and discover its sonorities. For the first time in the world, the public, during a cruise, will be able to ‘feel’ and be at the heart of an underwater world. They will need to use all of their senses.”

Sébastien Flamant
FLAMANT INTERIOR DESIGN
The commitment of Sebastien Flamant with the naval industry is a long term history. Developing the PONANT sister ships projects Le Boréal, L’Austral & Le Soléal within the Jean-Philippe Nuel Studio, he then has created FLAMANT INTERIOR DESIGN in 2013 where he has continued to explore the marine interior design.
Based on a good knowledge of the hotel industry, shipbuilding or luxury residences, the studio offers a creative and contemporary approach, keeping in mind that various targets may unveil along the carrying out of a project. F-ID’s philosophy is to design places as dreamlike journeys, discoveries or countless destinations.
Meeting Jacques Rougerie in 2016 they found some similar interests in biomimetic design and sea world. The Blue Eye project has been the a great chance to create this fantastic collaboration and a new opportunity to work with PONANT.
THE PROJECT

Based on the Jacques Rougerie original concept, Sébastien Flamant for FLAMANT INTERIOR DESIGN has designed a unique place evocative of cetaceans and marine species. This inspiration is evident in the lines of the lounge: stripes surrounding the space like whales baleens, curved seats like sea shells, smooth lines of the staircase housing designed like a caudal fin. All focus is drawn towards the two portholes, shaped like the eye of a cetacean and looking out upon the subaquatic world.

The lighting in the lounge designed by Aurelien De Fursac – LATERAL, is developed through touches. Disseminated in the space, animated with soft movements like a breath, it allows the spirit and the gaze to dive into the spectacle unfolding outside. The mural mirror décor disappears to make way for the integrated digital screens projecting an original jellyfish movie by DALCAN for the Blue Eye lounge or the images filmed live by three underwater cameras. Placed at the ship’s strategic points, these cameras enable guests to witness, for example, the spectacle of dolphins playing in the bow waves.

PONANT enlisted contemporary music composer and sound design expert Michel Redolfi to develop hydrophones that transmit the natural symphony of the sea into the lounge. For a true multi-sensory experience, the sofas integrate some Body Listening fixtures, each discretely vibrating in unison with the sounds of the ocean to create an underwater encounter guests can see, hear, and feel.

By coordinating all these various concepts and skills, integrating the architecture frame, the lighting and sound design, Jacques Rougerie and Sébastien Flamant have defined a complete immersive space where people get full sea world experience.
BLUE EYE TECHNICAL DATA:
Project: underwater multisensory
Lounge – 70m2.
Place: PONANT expedition ships
Le Lapérouse - June 2018

CREATIVE TEAM:
Architecture & concept:
Jacques Rougerie – JACQUES ROUGERIE ARCHITECTS

Interior design & scenography:
Sebastien Flamant FLAMANT INTERIOR DESIGN

Interior lighting:
Aurelien De Fursac - LATERAL

Music, sound design & acoustic study:
Michel Redolphi - AUDIONAUTES
Pascal Luquet - BIEN ENTENDU

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