

# Cocktail Cruiser

BY MICHAEL KASTEN

## 30-Footer With Portuguese Bridge

This sketch shows a profile view of the layout of a prototype design I created for Charles and TC Vollum, called *Sweet Okole*, which in Hawaiian is commonly used as a euphemism for “nice butt.”

A little back story; their 25-foot tug-yacht, *Boojum*, was by that time nearly completed in New Zealand. *Boojum* was actually developed for TC, who at the time wanted to be the first woman to circumnavigate solo under power—and in the smallest boat. Visit [www.kastenmarine.com/boojum25.htm](http://www.kastenmarine.com/boojum25.htm) for more info on that.

Charles and TC had asked me down to Portland, Oregon, so they could announce some “special news” during dinner. Having already created several configurations of the *Boojum* for their consideration, I had offhandedly made the claim that it was virtually impossible/crazy to attempt to design a vessel with a Portuguese bridge in a size under the 55- to 60-foot range that would be in any way graceful.

When I make a claim like that, if at all possible I usually try to prove myself wrong, just so I’m prepared for arguments to the contrary. Knowing already that they both favored the fantail stern, as a proof of concept I showed up at the restaurant with a quickly done “napkin sketch” for a design I called the *Sweet Okole*, which achieves a Portuguese bridge in an overall length of 30 feet. And, I think, does so nicely!

Well, Charles and TC liked *Sweet Okole* quite a lot, but their news at the dinner table blew that concept completely out of the water.

With a twinkle in their eyes, the couple announced that they had just learned TC was pregnant with their daughter, JJ, and they’d like me to start work on a much larger design to accommodate a couple of kids!

So, the *Sweet Okole* concept was quickly

deep-sixed, but the story has quite a happy ending. Charles and TC now cruise with their two children, JJ and Tommy, on a motor-sailing catamaran that is much larger than *Boojum*.

Doing business as Kasten Marine Design, Michael Kasten has been creating yacht designs for more than 25 years, both power and sail, nearly all of which are intended for long-distance ocean voyaging. Kasten refers to these vessels as “nomadic watercraft.”

Although the majority of Kasten’s designs are intended for construction in steel and aluminum, he has also had the opportunity to design several rather large plank-on-frame wooden boats ranging from 65 to 150 feet on deck and up to 650 metric tons displacement. Kasten’s design work takes a “modern-classic” approach to boat styling and boat function, combining the classic elements of grace, simplicity and practicality, with the strength and performance offered by modern analysis methods, modern materials and modern construction methods.



A tough task, *Sweet Okole* fits a Portuguese bridge on a vessel about half the size typically required.



