



the KIT cata

A PROFESSIONAL BUILDER'S

FROM THE CAT FACTORY

THE CAT FACTORY HAS BEEN BUILDING quality catamarans in WA since 1999. Owner and principal boat builder Lloyd Powell said "Our involvement with kits has been either through clients who do not have the time or inclination to build their own but want a fully customised cat (as opposed to buying a production cat), or through clients who have started to build their own but, for whatever reason, have decided to have a professional builder finish for them. We can fully appreciate that for many, the only way they can afford a large catamaran is if they build it themselves. However sometimes lack of expertise or time can result in false savings so we encourage owner / builders to work collaboratively with us. This can be in the form of having us complete the initial construction, with the owner / builder completing the fitout. This results in significant time savings for the owner; they can

have their boat at a 'lock up motor away' stage on the water in a relatively short time but can complete the fit out at their leisure and to fit their budget. Kits can go together extremely quickly – to a lockup motoraway stage around 800 hours (Fusion 40), to a sailaway stage ranging between 4000 to 10,000 hours depending on design and finish. The other advantage with using a professional builder is that when it comes to resale they can advertise that the boat was professionally constructed."

The Cat Factory first became involved with kits when they were asked to build a Schionning Cosmos 1320 for a client in 2004. "The obvious advantages of savings in time and labour became immediately apparent," said Lloyd, "without sacrificing the opportunity for the client to personalise their boat in the fit out. It does depend on the kit brand and what other design a



maran

PERSPECTIVE

kit build is compared to, but on average, kit building saves us as professional boatbuilders – and ultimately the owner as well, a minimum of 3000 hours. Time is a major saving but also economies of scale come to play by buying the kit materials from the kit manufacturer which equate to significant dollar savings as well."

Lloyd believes it's essential to have the family on your side before building. "It's likely that the project will be all consuming for a long time (maybe years) so make sure they want it too!" He also stresses sound research and planning. "This is critical before undertaking a boat building project.

Like any building project it's easy to underestimate both the time and cost involved, so the more prior research and planning that can be done the less likelihood of expensive 'surprises!'"

**Schionning Cosmos 1320. (main pic above left)
Fusion 40. (above)**

So besides strong planning, organisational and budgeting skills, what does Lloyd see as essential prerequisites for the amateur kit cat builder?

"Fibreglassing experience – if you don't have any, get some! Or get advice from a professional builder. You also need some general building experience – if you're not a hands on, practical type of person you should probably reconsider undertaking the



Schionning Wilderness 1480

project," he said. On the plus side, he believes backup support from kit suppliers is excellent for both amateur and professional builders and that "There is a clear marketing advantage for a professional builder who is linked to a recognised and respected brand."

If your skills fit the bill and you're considering a kit cat, "Do it!" Lloyd said. "If you can't afford to do it alone then find someone to share with, you'd be crazy not to!"

The Cat Factory's latest project is a Fusion 40 sailing cat. "We first became aware of Fusion Catamarans late 2004, however it wasn't until late 2005 that we signed as the

Western Australian agents and assemblers for them. Since then we have assembled two to a finished sailaway stage and are completing a third with expected launch in May. We have had a great working relationship with the Fusion Team, the excellent support and encouragement we have received from them has made it possible for us to provide great service to our Western Australian clients."

Lloyd believes the Fusion Kit is quite unique in comparison to other kit boats on the market which is one of the reasons he became involved. The features that he sees set the Fusion Kit apart are:

THE KIT COMPOSITION

All Fusion components are moulded at the Fusion Factory using industry-leading modular vacuum infusion technology. By using modified vinylester resins, the Fusion 40 has a strong

**The Aluminium Kitset Specialists
Global Marine Design (Australia)**

Global Marine Design, Based in Naval Base, Western Australia, have been busy on the local and world market, designing and exporting a range of exceptional multihull work vessels. All of these vessels are supplied to the builders in 40 foot containers, as Marine Kits flat packs.

GMD started their first kitset concept in the year 1990 and have been busy developing their kitsets to an extreme level of detail and inclusion, to make the job of the shipyard as smooth and trouble free as building can be.

GMD is arguably now the longest standing aluminium kitset supplier with more than 200 vessels successfully designed, kitted and shipped. Their Offshore Wind Farm catamarans are setting new standards in the UK and European market. With all hulls design approved to the Det Norske Veritas rules, the range of vessels covers most of the 10 to 30 metre offshore sector, for high speed aluminium. The GMD design range includes their own registered and very successful AIR RIDER design. This is a cathedral type hull that is adopted by Sea Rescue and offshore crew transfer companies. The Air Riders range from 6.6 metres up to the latest 19 metre, 35 knot patrol vessel under construction in Malaysia.



Global Marine Design Pty Ltd
5/43 Burlington Street, Naval Base
Western Australia 6165
Ph +61 (0)89 437 1319
Fax +61 (0)89 437 2030
Email: sales@marinekits.com
Web: www.marinekits.com



THE CAT FACTORY

Catamaran Specialists

- ▲ We are builders of stylish, 'easy to handle' catamarans with a focus on quality and individualism.
- ▲ We understand that performance combined with comfort is what clients are looking for.
- ▲ We offer you a choice of partial or full construction of sailing or motor craft from any recognised designer.
- ▲ We are the exclusive W.A. agent and approved builder of Fusion Design Catamarans: Fusion 40 Sailing and Power Catamarans
- ▲ We are an approved builder of Schionning Design Catamarans



A BUILDER YOU CAN TRUST

THE CAT FACTORY, CATAMARAN SPECIALISTS

PO Box 1420, Fremantle W.A. 6959 | Tel. 041 4476015 | Email: info@catfactory.com.au | Web: www.catfactory.com.au



composite structure with weight kept to a minimum. Unfortunately weight is often a problem with owner / builders constructing kits from flat panels, this fully moulded kit eliminates this issue entirely and, provided the fit out is undertaken with due attention to weight considerations, the Fusion 40 is guaranteed to give you outstanding performance.

THE KIT ASSEMBLY

With the moulded kit components there is a significant saving in construction time (therefore dollars) in comparison with 'build from plan' boats and even other kit designs.

THE KIT LOOK

With its 'aerodynamic' cabin top and sleek, racing profile, this is a smart and stylish design that definitely has the 'wow' factor. Although every Fusion exterior will exhibit the quality of the Fusion production moulding system, every boat can also be unique reflection of the owner's desires. They may choose a seven star interior; or they may choose something low key, it's all up to the owner's imagination and budget.

"The whole concept of the Fusion kit is that it is pretty straightforward. There is a little bit of time initially to set the jig up, (we have made a set of cradles to support all the major components) but once you have glued the main structure together, the picture becomes clearer!"

The Cat Factory approach is to work very closely with owners during the build. "If an owner is unable to build the kit himself then we like to offer the very next best thing," Lloyd stresses and "We believe it is essential to involve the owner in every aspect of the construction and actively encourage a detailed and regular consultation process. In addition to 'on the go' communication as required, we like, if possible, to see the owners at the factory on a weekly basis so that ideas and practical solutions can be talked through 'in situ' and decisions can be made without delay. It enables the owner to get a real feel for their boat and most



left from top :
Fusion 40 kit unpacked.
Assembled to a 'lock up' motoraway stage in four to five weeks.
Uncluttered cockpit.



importantly, it provides the opportunity for the degree of customisation simply not possible at a production boat facility. This is really at the heart of what we are about and allows us to absolutely deliver on our customers expectations"

Another advantage using a professional builder to put you kit together is the follow up service. "Once the boat is launched, sea trials are conducted and any commissioning, equipment familiarisation and trouble shooting is undertaken. This process generally takes around four weeks and on completion the Certificate of Satisfaction is signed by the owner. After this time we offer a 12 month warranty on any construction work and a complementary construction warranty inspection at six months post launch.

We are of course available to answer/act on any general queries the owner might have about the boat. This is particularly important when the owner first takes over the

Spacious saloon.

boat as there may be some teething problems that will need to be resolved."

There are plenty more exciting projects ahead for the Cat Factory. "We anticipate that within the next 12 months we will be commencing work on the new Schionning and / or Raku designs which we are very excited about. We will of course continue to approach all of our projects with the same degree of enthusiasm, eye for innovation and pursuit of quality."

If you know what you want but are not able to build it yourself then come and talk to us, our commitment to quality workmanship, professionalism and a creative eye for practical detail will turn your dreams into reality.

www.boatcraft.com.au/shop

Buy on line and your purchase can be delivered to anywhere in Australia.

Your #1 source for Bote-Cote epoxy, Aquacote paint & Cop-R-Bote antifoul, Purbond & Epox-E-Glue, Fibreglass, and stuff for wooden boats. Also Plywood, Nidaplast, Hoop Pine, Silicon Bronze Fasteners, Davey Bronze Fittings, Books and Plans.