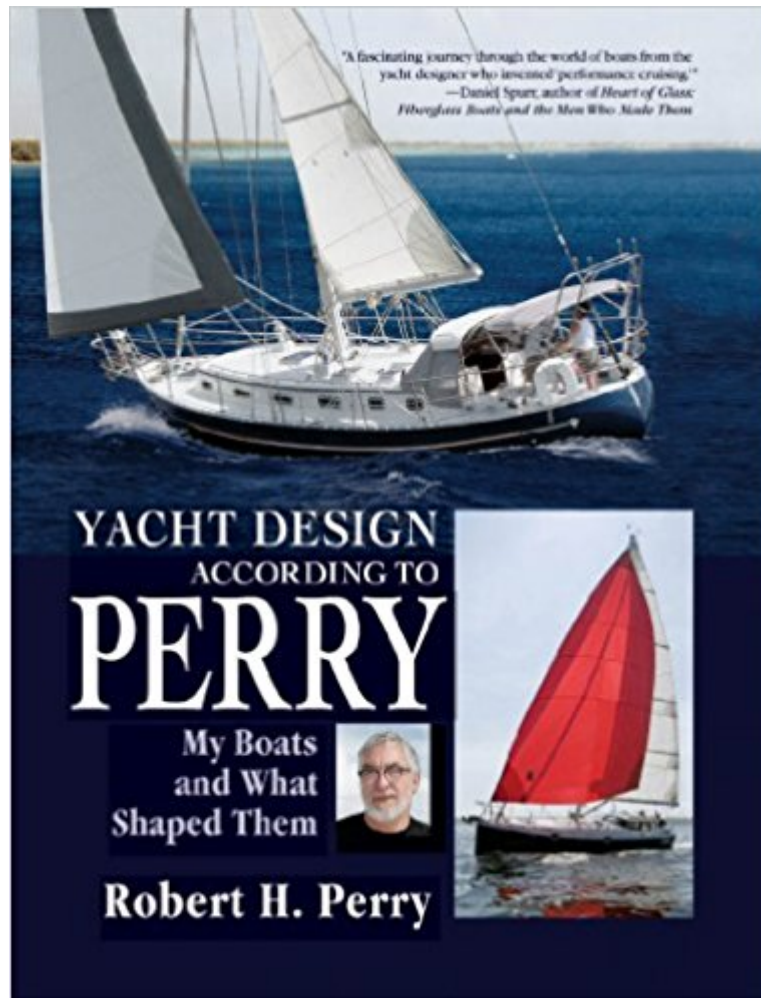




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# Yacht Design According To Perry: My Boats And What Shaped Them



## Synopsis

A great designer offers you a virtuoso tour through the world of sailboats Bob Perry initiated the trend toward fast voyaging sailboats with his world-famous Valiant 40, which has been in production longer than any other cruising sailboat in history. But Perry is not only a leading yacht designer--he is also an accomplished wordsmith whose blunt, insightful, irreverent, and always entertaining boat reviews have captivated readers of Sailing magazine for 24 years. This book is vintage Perry, a no-holds-barred tour of the world of yacht design through the benchmark boats of his 30-year career.

## Book Information

File Size: 20396 KB

Print Length: 290 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Up to 4 simultaneous devices, per publisher limits

Publisher: International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press; 1 edition (September 5, 2007)

Publication Date: September 5, 2007

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B000WJOU00

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #336,213 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #71

inÂ Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships > Repair & Maintenance #109

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > World > Transportation > Ships #121 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships

## Customer Reviews

While Bob's book is filled with really great anecdotes describing the coming of age of the performance cruiser, the technical presentation is the best I've seen for the intended audience (people like me). I have a modest collection of yacht/boat design books and Bob's is hands down the book I turn to when I need a REAL answer to a design question. Sure, there are the academic

approaches to yacht design that require a 4 year degree and decades of experience to understand. Then there are the common sense approaches that Bob has given that ultimately arrive at the same conclusion, often with better results. Bob's been around and you cannot beat experience. He's seen the transition from the old ways of lofting lines full scale on the floor to designing in 3D and sending the data to a CNC milling machine. Unlike a lot of folks who are stuck in the 'old' ways, Bob has kept pace with the times and his designs and methods are state of the art. As an owner of a Perry Designed Sailboat (Baba 30 mentioned in his book in the double-enders chapter), it was great to read about the history of the type. Any Perry boat owner should read this book. It will answer a lot of questions. For those of you who know how prolific Bob has been, stay tuned for his second book which he has threatened to publish. As a friend and colleague of Bob's I may be a bit biased, but as yacht designers go, Bob stands out as an exception in the boating community. His willingness to share his insight into all things boat related (mostly sail, but powerboats too) has done more to advance boating than I think he realizes. Don't get me wrong, he's not humble. But that hasn't stopped him from sharing his enthusiasm for boats and he's always willing to listen to others' ideas. Good ideas and dumb ideas alike will tender appropriate responses. Bottom line, if you can't find this boat instructional and entertaining, maybe boats just aren't your thing and you should consider something like watching Full House reruns instead.

Excellent overview of a distinguished sailboat designer's extensive body of work & design methods and inspirations.

This is an outstanding book for anyone who wants a practical understanding of modern yacht design. Perry is an excellent writer, clear, concise and thorough and his broad experience allows him to explore a wide range of designs and design topics. The book is organized in an interesting way. He intersperses chapters on specific makes of boats he's designed (e.g. Valiant, Passport and so on) with complementary chapters on yacht design principles (draft, transom shape, keels, etc.) I came away with an understanding of a sailboat as a unified system, rather than as a collection of separate parts. One thing I enjoyed in Perry's writing style was his directness in evaluating his own work. Maybe this comes from the years of reviewing the design work of others in the sailing mags. When he feels he nailed it on one of his boats, he says so, and when he thinks he missed the mark he says that too. He's pretty straight forward too about the colorful characters he's encountered along the way, especially the strong willed owners and builders that he admits he's had the good sense to learn from, or at times be pushed around by. Made me realize that building a sailboat is

more of a collaboration than I first understood and sometimes a battle of wills. If you're interested in sailboat design, this book is an excellent primer. If you're considering having a custom boat designed and built to your brief, then maybe you know all this stuff already. If not, this book is a must read.

I think Bob Perry has done an excellent job describing what it was like for him to work from the birth of cruising yacht design to the present day. His narrative makes enjoyable reading and he explains as best he can in layman's terms the innumerable constraints that are/were placed on a yacht designer and I can only imagine still are. I could not help thinking while reading his book that I had wished the same dream as he. Thanks for the read Bob and glad you have enjoyed the ride, you have deserved it!

Bob Perry's book is a beginning yacht designer's guide for understanding the parameters that make a great design. His knowledge of what works and doesn't is carefully catalogued throughout the book. The line drawings will be referred to by many beginning yacht designers to help identify the shapes that make a fast performance or cruising yacht. Mr. Perry's book provides information that had to be researched in Naval Architecture books or scholarly research papers. His easily read prose makes the understanding of yacht design much easier. I wish I had bought the book when it was first published.

If you love Perry's boats, this book is vital. Part autobiography, insight into his way of thinking out his designs. Lots of useful comments on technical details about boat design making topics almost accessible. Nicely printed. For those of us owning a Perry design, it's great fun reading and re-reading why he designed them the way he did. Highly recommended.

I've been a fan of Robert Perry for over 30 years. He is such a witty writer, tells the truth about boats and his story is pretty amazing. You'll actually read this instead of just looking at the pictures. Just order it, you'll have years of enjoyment.

Bob Perry is my favorite designer and I loved reading the stories behind his most popular designs.

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