

The connoisseur's guide to the good life afloat

# ESSENTIALS

## SPEAKING VOLUMES

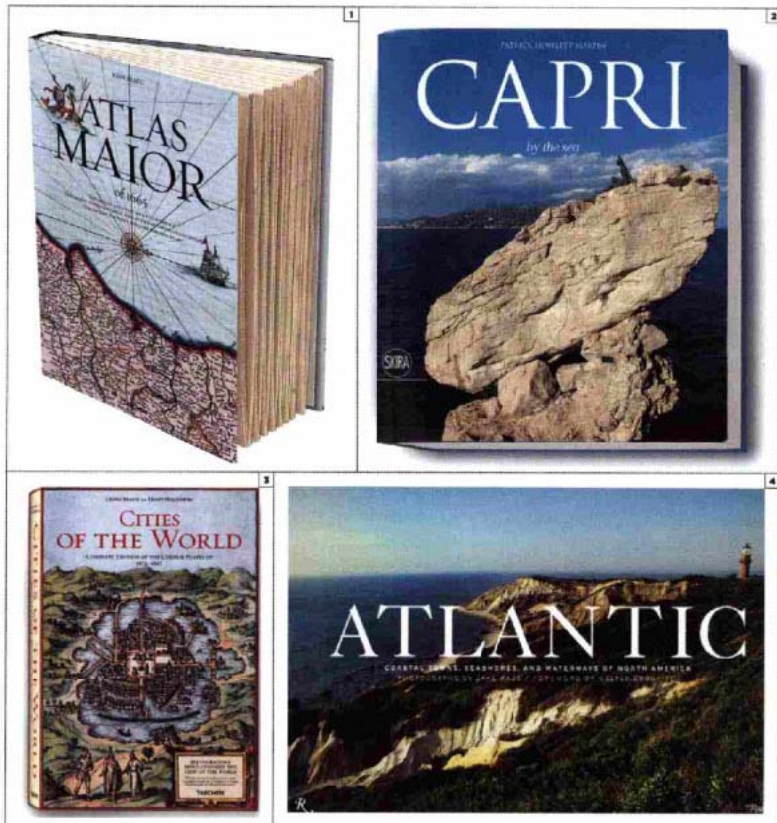
The tomes you choose to accent your yacht's interior say a lot about what's on your mind

"I ALWAYS GET a sense of the person who owns a boat from the books I see when I first glance around," says *ShowBoats International's* editor-in-chief Jill Bobrow.

Over the years, Bobrow and the other editors of *ShowBoats International* have seen hundreds of yachts and, by extension, thousands of yacht owners' books. Like home libraries, yacht bookshelves and tables indeed can tell an observer a great deal about the interests and tastes of the men and women on board. If the volumes happen to be aesthetically pleasing, complementing a salon, skylounge or stateroom with their color or design, all the better. As do the owners whose yachts we write about, we have our own favorite large-format books, some of which you may already have aboard and some you may want to acquire.

Working in design and publishing has made me a voracious consumer of books on all subjects. From these compound factors I recommend the following titles. They are a mix of subjects and stories I've come to rely on in my personal collection or have seen time and again in some of the best yacht interiors—not just serving as coasters, but also providing guests with an interesting read as they choose to pick up that beverage and the book beneath it.

One favorite publisher of such books is Taschen, a fabulous and innovative German publishing house that has grown since



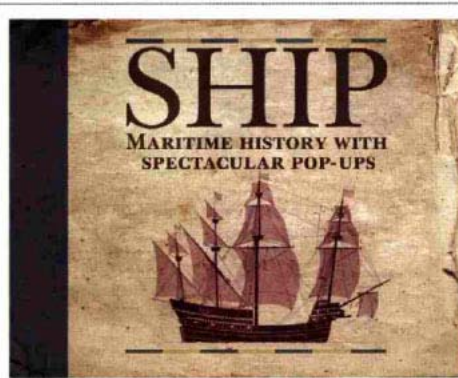
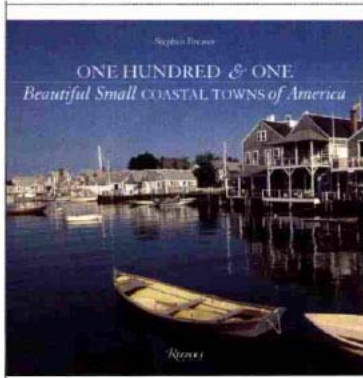
its origins in 1980 as a 25-square-meter, rare-comics shop in Cologne. The book that first turned me onto this company is the incredible Albertus Seba's *Cabinet of Natural Curiosities*. The oversized compendium measures nearly 11 inches by 17 inches and impresses with more than its size. Seba's *Cabinet of Curiosities* is perhaps one of the all-time greatest accomplishments in the study of natural history. Dating from the eighteenth century, the Dutch pharmacist commissioned illustrations of his findings from around the world, many of which are extinct today. The scenic illustrations, which often mix plants and animals in a single plate,

were a most unusual arrangement for the time and remain so.

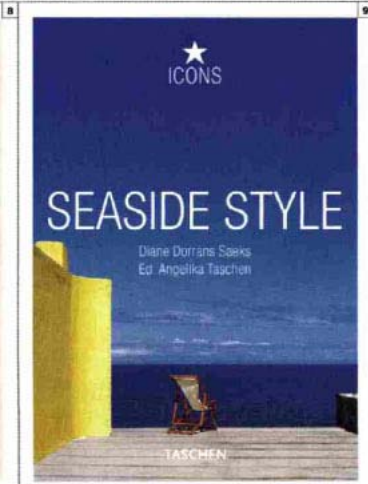
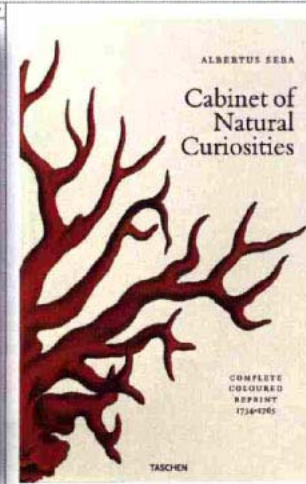
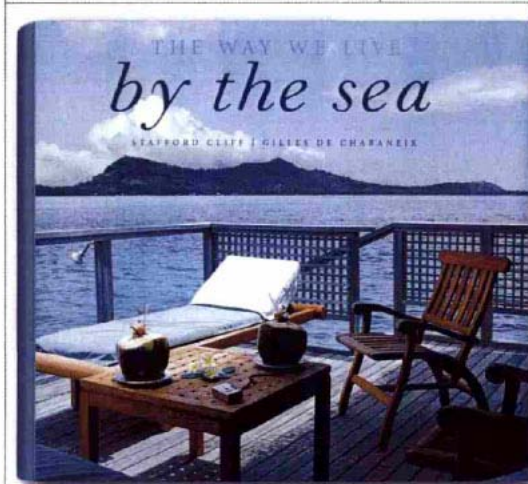
Taschen also offers the *Atlas Maior* in the same size as the aforementioned. It has been called the greatest and finest atlas ever published and is based on Joan Blaeu's original, completed in 1665. Covering Arctica, Europe, Africa, Asia and America, the remarkable achievement is still one of the finest examples of mapmaking available. The reprint is made from the National Library of Vienna's complete, colored, gold-heightened copy, assuring a replica as close to the original as possible.

An outstanding complement to the *Atlas*

Courtesy of Taschen (upper left); ©Historisches Museum Frankfurt, Courtesy of Taschen (lower left)



1. & 3. Displayed on an easel, Taschen's oversized coffee-table books are an ever-changing, artful addition to any space 2. Who could resist this wonderful compilation on one of the world's most storied isles? 4. *Atlantic* is a must-have for any American yachtsman or woman 5. & 7. Rizzoli titles from *The Way We Live* and *One Hundred & One* series give glimpses of unique cruising grounds, surrounds and the homes inspired by those areas 6. A maritime pop-up book is a welcome addition for junior ocean-goers 8. Taschen's *Cabinet of Natural Curiosities* is an unmatched offering of art and knowledge 9. *Seaside Style* shows the ways in which the international coastal community lives and entertains.



Courtesy of Taschen (lower middle, lower right)

*Maior* is *Cities of the World*. A slight bit smaller, but still grand in comparison, this book is the complete reprint of 363 color plates from Georg Braun and Franz Hogenberg's survey of town maps, city views, and plans of Europe, Africa, Asia and Central America. First published in Cologne in 1572 to 1617, Taschen's reprint is from a rare, preserved original set of volumes belonging to the Historisches Museum in Frankfurt.

Other greats from Taschen, especially for life by the sea, are *Seaside Style* and *Seaside Style Vol. 2*. The two volumes visit some of the most varied and inspired coastal

dwelling around the globe and will no doubt inspire your own seaside style on board.

A second boutique publishing house I like to keep tabs on is Rizzoli New York. A branch of RCS MediaGroup, which formed when the Italian-based Rizzoli publishing house merged with the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, Rizzoli New York is a leader in the fields of art, architecture, interior design, haute couture and more.

Great titles for stocking your yacht range from the playful *Pop-Up Book of Ships* to *The Way We Live...By the Sea*. Entertaining for youngsters and grown-ups

alike, the pop-up tale is a dramatic journey that presents various maritime cultural innovations, showing the progress from Columbus' *Santa Maria* to Dennis Conner's *Stars & Stripes*. *The Way We Live... By the Sea* focuses on the best examples of living and style in various parts of the world. From houses built over the sea to life aboard private boats, the book examines how people link their lives and homes to their powerful, aqueous neighbor.

—MATTHEW ESPOSITO

For more information, visit [www.taschen.com](http://www.taschen.com) and [www.rizzoliusa.com](http://www.rizzoliusa.com).