

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN • STYLING

Style is a subjective concept and difficult to define. While all of the boats that applied in this category have style, the editors based their votes on whether a particular model would be a trendsetter or not. Two such models—a pontoon boat and a bowrider—met this criteria in the editors' eyes.

SANPAN 2500 BC I/O ELITE

This 25½-foot tri-toon fairly defines the luxury pontoon market with hallmarks such as richly upholstered settees in the cockpit and bow, a removable dining table, a captain's seat and a galley station abaft the helm.

SANPAN 2500 BC I/O ELITE

Base price (w/MerCruiser Mag 350 MPI/Bravo 3): \$61,200
Length: 25' 6"
Beam: 8' 6"
Weight: 2951 lbs.
Fuel: 56 gals.
888/463-3739
sanpanboats.com

However, the most innovative interior element of the boat is the convertible aft "island" lounge that inclines, reclines and folds out into a spacious sun pad. It doubles as the engine compartment cover and even includes a changing room.

Also integral to this plush platform are specially placed speakers. Engineers from Godfrey Marine worked with Jensen Marine sound system engineers in designing the entire Elite package interior elements to create an incomparable amphitheater

experience. As we moved about the pontoon, we could not find a musical "dead zone."

While you might not consider a pontoon boat a real contender when it comes to style, this boat may have you changing your tune on "toons." And in our mind, that makes it an excellent design.

REGAL 2300 FASTRAC

We have been close up and personal with the 2300 FasTrac from Regal Boats, following this model in a trilogy of stories from the drawing board to the tooling to the finished product. In fact, the boat even graced the cover of our December 2009 issue. Yet, as we stand back today and admire it, we realize that this boat really does have style.

REGAL 2300 FASTRAC

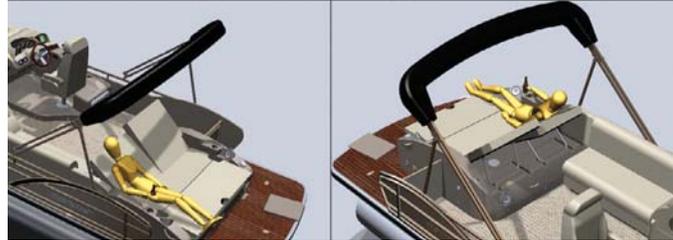
Base price (w/270-hp Volvo Penta 5.0L Gi/SX): \$52,638
Length (w/o platform): 24' 0"
Beam: 8' 6"
Weight: 3870 lbs.
Fuel: 54 gals.
800/877-3425
regalboats.com

Gone are the molds, resin and shards of fiberglass, replaced by exquisite lines, the vented FasTrac hull, a forward-sweeping sport tower and a richly appointed interior made all-the-more comfortable with slender gunwales to open up more cockpit space.

There are two innovative—dare we say trendsetting—features to the 2300 FasTrac, as well. First is the forward hinging engine hatch, which helps keep the tools and smudges out of the cockpit. The second is the motorized folding feature on the sport

tower—just touch a button and the arch folds down or up. What's more, the sport tower is made from carbon-fiber composite to reduce weight while maintaining strength, not to mention its flowing lines.

All told, the Regal 2300 FasTrac is definitely a style winner. >



For additional photos and illustrations of the 2010 Excellence in Design award winners, check out TrailerBoats.com.