

History of S/Y Desiderata

Desiderata is a premium 66' classic ketch, currently based in Nelson New Zealand. A sister ship to *Malabar XIII*, the [history](#) behind this vessel adds romance and interest to an already enthralling boat. Originally designed by naval architect John G. Alden in 1945. Known romantically as the 'Last of the *Malabars*', they have a distinguished historical record in ocean racing. John Alden's last personally owned racing yacht was *Malabar XIII*, hence, she sails like a dream and stands out amongst the classic regatta yachts.



Desiderata is a sister to *Malabar XIII* –Ketch-rigged for efficiency and easy handling under sail, 66' Desiderata is designed for pure speed during regatta racing. The *Malabar XIII* was a war baby – first constructed when materials were hard to find; but nevertheless, the design excelled in the 1948 Bermuda Race and 1951 Transatlantic Race.

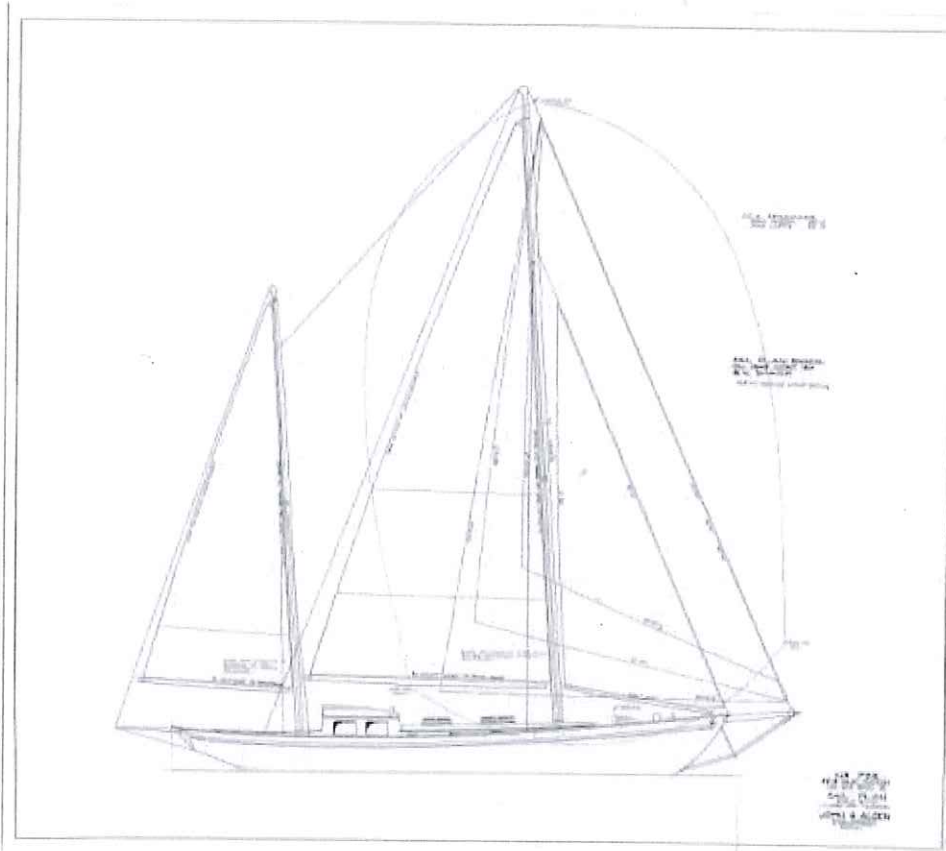
The *Malabars* have a permanent place in yachting history; *Desiderata* was one of only five to be built to design number 0756, and one of two ketch designs to be personally raced by Alden.



Desiderata was rebuilt in 1975 in the USA, and sailed by her builder around the world – culminating in New Zealand. She was then purchased by an Australian who cruised her throughout the Pacific.

Today, [Stuart and Julia](#) are the proud owner-operators; living happily on board, year round. *Desi* had extensive refits, including the interior, in 1997 and 2013

S/Y Desiderata's sail plan re-designed by Alden in 1948.



S/Y Desiderata's Original Cabin Plan by John G. Alden

