

Art Department



Matthew Williams

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JUMPING SHIP

The 40-foot Lord Nelson Victory Tug is a boat of many colors. While it evokes the classic tugboat in form, its hull resembles a lobster boat and its interior is luxuriously yacht-like. It also has elements in common with trailers.

For Brooklyn Home Company creative director Lyndee Caleo Karol, the boat's allure has as much to do with evocation as with form. In 2012, she and her father were cruising across Long Island Sound, when she spotted a 37-foot Lord Nelson bobbing in the waters nearby. Although she had never envisioned keeping a boat on the Brooklyn waterfront, it immediately felt like a release from the city, and a happy place for a family. Caleo Karol says of her decision to seek out a Lord Nelson that she could share with Brooklyn Home Company colleagues and extended family: "It also offered something from home that I was missing in Brooklyn."

With Brooklyn Home Company artist-in-residence Fitzhugh Karol, one week later Caleo Karol headed to Stonington, Maine, to inspect a 40-foot Lord Nelson that had been dry-docked for a number of years. Caleo Karol and Karol set to work on a seven-month rehabilitation, rehabbing the boat Lucy after beloved Labrador retriever upon completion. The project first required removing old wiring, which filled a 30-gallon drum. In addition to restoring the electrical systems, the couple

upgraded the kitchen and added power-flushing toilets. They then moved to the visible layers, refinishing the interiors' teak and holly floors in collaboration with a New York-area shipyard, and they recoated walls and ceilings in a warm white. By removing upper cabinets from a peninsula counter, they also opened the kitchen to the main cabin, which includes a barquette in saddle leather as well as a repolished in favorite spirits' bottles.

A multitasking attitude comes even more strongly to the fore in the pilothouse, where a third bedroom was added in combination with a small seating area just behind the helm station. And whereas the newly teak-finished top deck once accommodated only dinghy storage, now it is the most important zone for outdoor dining and leisure. Caleo Karol and Karol proved that space's entertaining and capacity in 2016, when they hosted their wedding in New York Harbor with twenty guests in attendance.

Since that big day, Lucy has borne witness to gatherings of a more relaxed variety, from sleepovers to multiday trips up or down the East Coast. "Achieving solitude within New York City was kind of a remarkable experience, and it became a really important aspect of our lives," Karol says. Just as Lucy chugs far from the madding crowd, her highly functional and cheerful redesign contributes equally to one's experience of peace.

THE BROOKLYN HOME: MODERN HAVENS IN THE CITY

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