

“The name of Olin Stephens is alive in France.

First, and for the first time since the late seventies, a wooden yacht designed by Olin Stephens is being built by a French shipyard. A young and recently retired French gentleman felt in love with “Finisterre” the 1954 Stephens design 38 feet yacht. Failing to find a second hand Finisterre for sale, this gentleman decided to get in touch with Chantiers Hubert Stagnol in order to examine the possibility to build a new “Finisterre”. Chantiers Hubert Stagnol is located in Bénodet, a famous city in the French Cornwall Riviera and is almost known for having built nine William Fife III 30 feet and one William Fife 45 feet replicas, this yacht having been launched for the purpose of racing the 100th anniversary regatta at Fairlie, Scotland, in June 2008.

Apart from building replicas, Hubert Stagnol has a continuous activity of restoring yachts and has already rebuilt / refit more than 20 wooden yachts for French and overseas clients.

Hubert Stagnol went in touch with Sparkman and Stephens of Madison Avenue, New York and managed to get the authorisation to build a “Finisterre” as per the original 1954 drawings.

The construction started in February 2008 and the yard has used the strip-planking methodology in order to deliver a strong and light hull. The launching of the yacht is scheduled to take place in May 2009 and we will provide the Association with full report on this exciting event.



Pictured is the Finistere under construction in July 2008.

