

Outfitting the Dream—For Both of You

By Karyn Rothstein

Krogen 58' *Equinox*

You dream of having a boat (or a bigger boat), and you visit the boat shows. Repeatedly. The glint of sloping white fiberglass contrasting with the gleam of dark windows is seductive: it conjures up enticing visions of gliding out of the marina in front of your envious neighbors en route to sunny destinations. Thoughts of proudly entertaining guests while on the hook in tranquil waters dance in your head, and before you know it, you are the proud owners of a vessel that is all first-glance glitter, with no substance to provide for how you will actually use your boat.

Think about it. Does the dream match the reality of your vessel? Look past the flashy façades that tempt and entice. Kathleen Norfolk, a dynamic member of the Kadey-Krogen sales team, recently commended us on the way we have outfitted *Equinox*, noting that our boat is outfitted perfectly for our lifestyle. She commented that many folks don't focus on the details of how they plan to use their boat, which made me stop and think. We aimed for a Kadey-Krogen precisely because of our experiences with previous boats, and our dream of the cruising life. No matter your dream, it's essential to consider what items you will actually need to accurately support your intended lifestyle, and make sure the vessel you choose can accommodate them.

One specific dream: we love to scuba-dive and finding a boat with room for a compressor was key. Our Krogen 58' has a lazarette with plenty of room, enabling us to put in a dive compressor (a nitrox one at that) as well as a sturdy 6-tank rack, and a large bin for dive gear.



We added a removable dive ladder on the transom and extra handrails above it. Believe me, we looked at many a boat with that dream in mind and most fell short, but Kadey-Krogen worked with us to achieve our desires. Your dream may not be so specific, but there are certain things everyone has in common that one must consider.

For instance, do you enjoy having guests aboard? The layout of cabins is a main consideration, and Kadey-Krogen has a several different options to suit your preferences. While some folks desire and truly need a three-cabin configuration, we didn't. With only one teenage daughter, the two-stateroom/open office layout was a perfect fit. The office is an airy, welcoming workspace, well designed and infinitely useful with its shelves, cabinets, wine cooler and wide desk. Previous experience guided our choice, for on our former boat we found that our third cabin became the "junk room" for storage; the bunks were really too narrow for use as anything but shelves. Rather than subject our guests to its confines, we would displace our

“On each of our previous boats, the galley was the weak link because I hadn’t fully considered the realities of cooking for guests aboard...”

daughter from her usual cabin and make her sleep in the extra state-room. (Although, to be completely honest, we did have a couple guests who slept comfortably there, but they were toddlers, age 2 and 4.) We use the office space daily, and are delighted in Kadey-Krogen’s ability to be flexible and provide the best possible configuration for our needs.

Can you entertain easily without having to work around annoying features of your flashy boat? A steel sink does not a gourmet galley make. On each of our previous boats, the galley was the weak link because I hadn’t fully considered the realities of cooking for guests aboard nor recognized where the galley’s infrastructure was inadequate. Gleaming granite countertops



often covered mechanical spaces (A/C units come to mind) leaving little or no storage underneath. And

asking guests to stand while you pull pans from beneath the dinette bench was not elegant entertaining. Aboard *Equinox*, I have plenty of easy-to-clean Corian counter space for food preparation, and adequate storage for pots, pans and utensils. I have good drawer space, and a huge pantry closet. Pinch me!

What about the refrigerator? Sure, those fancy drawer refrigerator units look sexy at the boat shows, but they are a pain to use in every day life with kids aboard and meals to make. Trying to find items at the bottom is an exercise in annoyance every time, since you need to unpack all the other perishables on the top. Even a side-by-side unit may look adequate, until you find it’s impossible to prepare hors d’oeuvres ahead of time since you cannot store any large



platters. *Equinox*'s galley came equipped with not only a Viking range, but also a wide, full-size Jenn-Air refrigerator with ample shelf space—a godsend when entertaining guests, and even more so when living aboard.

How is the clean-up after meals? Can you load the dishwasher with ease? Do you even have a dishwasher? Admittedly, having a dishwasher aboard is a luxury, but it's even more annoying to be stuck doing dishes in a flashy but entirely too small sink, without the space for even a drying rack on the galley counters. Aboard *Equinox* we not only have enough counter space for a drying rack but the galley has a Miele dishwasher, and GE trash compactor, which are standard appliances. Need I say more?

Folks, do you like to fish? We enjoy it, and thus have a pair of rod holders off the back deck, so we can drag a few lines in the water as we cruise. No, a Kadey-Krogen is not a huge sportfisher, nor a fishing trawler (no nets!), but really, one rod is all you need to get bait in the water! Plus, we love to grill our catch. What, no grill, you say? You need to equip your boat with a grill of some sort for those lovely afternoons and evenings on the hook, to enjoy your catch while dining at the flybridge table. I'm not talking about one of those bolt-on-the-rail type grills either, which are (1) too small, (2) equipped with an annoying wire-attached lid that scratches and bangs all railings and gel coat within reach, and (3) are impossible to clean or even move for storage, since they dump grit and greasy ashes everywhere at the first movement.

Having previously dealt with the above, we put a lot of thought into equipping the flybridge aboard *Equinox*. We now enjoy a built-in "summer kitchen" unit that encloses a gas Force10 grill with a built-in cutting board alongside, and has a sink plumbed with hot and cold running water. Beneath the sink hides a small U-line refrigerator with icemaker for ice and beer at your fingertips—no need to run down below for reinforcements! It even tucks in drawer space for utensils and hot pads. Needless to say, sharing freshly grilled meals while watching the sunset with friends is an easy joy.



Finally, are you thinking of long-range cruising and destinations among far-away islands? A solid, well-designed boat built to take rough seas is a must. From the flaring bow (its "proud snout") above the waters to the casted lead ballast in the keel, the Krogen 58' is a rugged little ship. We love the Portuguese bridge that provides an extra measure of safety when on deck, and the massive strength of her construction is evident (and reassuring!) particularly when heading into 12-foot seas. But whether you are going far afield or merely around the bend, the evident quality of the Krogen 58' will take you there in safety and style.

So trust me, consideration of your cruising goals is key. Don't be taken in by mere appearance, but take your own experiences and use them to craft your dreams. Whether you will use your boat as a weekend home, or for full-time living aboard, keep in mind your needs and what works for you. Keeping these in mind keeps the boat from being a compromise, and thus will dovetail with your dreams more precisely. *Equinox*, with its layout, luxurious standard equipment and our own special additions not only suits our needs, but more importantly, goes beyond them to address our dreams beautifully—just as we imagined it would. Now, having used experience as a guide, what would we change about our Kadey-Krogen? Not a thing.

"So trust me, consideration of your cruising goals is key. Don't be taken in by mere appearance, but take your own experiences and use them to craft your dreams."