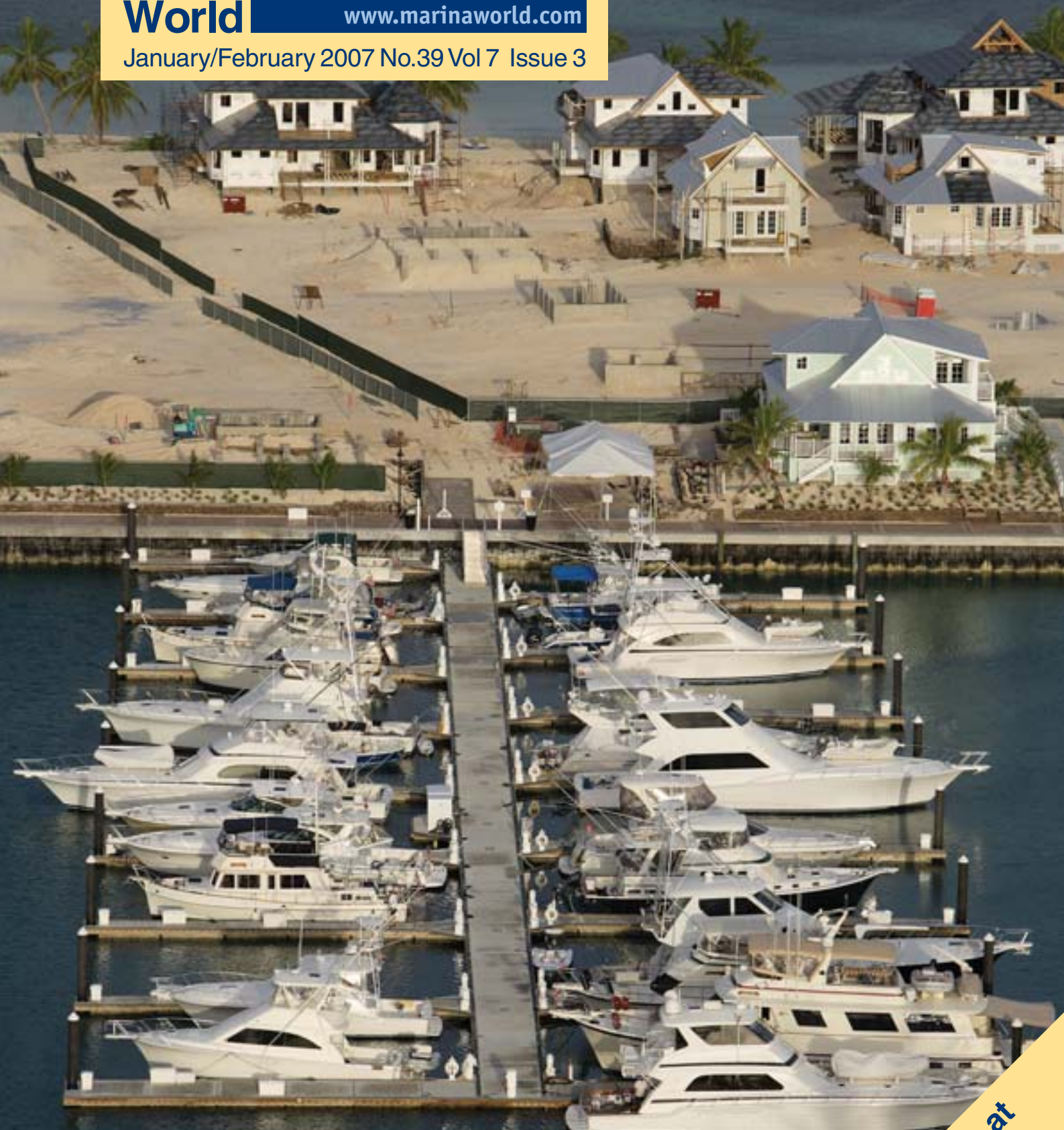


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Exotic yet unspoilt – an artist's impression of Porto Hussong.

The biggest gets bigger

MEXICO: Newly refined plans for Porto Hussong in the port city of Ensenada, Baja California, have added a total of 30 slips to the original 274 count. This further consolidates the new marina's claim to be the largest facility – so far – in the state. Of the new total, 72 slips are in the megayacht range of 80-400 feet with an average size of 140 feet making Porto Hussong the largest planned megayacht marina in terms of total berths on the west coast of the Americas.

Developer Meridian Development Group (MDG) of Nevada, USA, views the 16-acre oceanfront resort as a landmark project with world class facilities and upmarket residential options to complement a marina club and the state-of-the-art marina. "Porto Hussong will be a luxury destination that serves as a stepping stone to the Baja experience," explained MDG CEO Chris Merson.

Porto Hussong is the result of a vision shared by MDG and the famed Hussong family of Ensenada. John Hussong moved to Mexico in 1889 and opened the world-famous 'Hussong's Cantina' in 1892. His five children have been involved in various businesses throughout Mexico and the USA and, one, Walter Hussong Sr., was an entrepreneur whose spirit and marketing success is credited with helping spur Ensenada's industrial and tourism growth. One of his endeavours, the Hotel Quintas Papagayo, recently occupied the land that will become Porto Hussong.

"The Hussongs have been approached by many developers over the years," Merson noted. "They chose to partner with us due to our track record in Mexico and they liked the project's concept that will carry the family

name for many years to come."

The yacht club and megayacht marina are being designed by the Corrough Consulting Group of Newport Beach, California. Principal, John Corrough, whose portfolio includes award-winning projects around the globe, recalls ongoing discussions with colleagues and friends that stretch back nearly 40 years - during his first participation in the Newport Beach to Ensenada Yacht Race - regarding the site and its great marina potential. When asked to work alongside MDG and the Hussong family in 2005 he 'signed on'.

"It's hard not to use superlatives and one shouldn't until this is a proven reality justifying them but the facilities and operations of this project should make it the largest and most advanced megayacht resort complex on the eastern edge of the Pacific and quite possibly in North America," Corrough told *Marina World*. "Needless to say, I am very pleased to be a part of the process which will finally make my four-decade-old dream a reality in 2009."

A detailed report on the planning and design of Porto Hussong will appear in the March/April issue.

Breast Cancer Care

UK: Serious training is the order of the day for Rachel Smith and Lin Griesel of Bank of Scotland even though they are virtually a year away from their Atlantic Rowing Challenge. To take place in December 2007, the row from La Gomera to Antigua is likely to test their strengths to the limit but it's all in an excellent cause. Aiming to raise £100,000 for Breast Cancer Care, the duo have attracted donations from a variety of marine companies and been given free-of-charge marina facilities use by sponsor Marina Developments (MDL). As we closed for press in December, just over £34,000 had been raised. Please join *Marina World* in making a donation. Find out more on www.atlanticrowingchallenge.co.uk



Flag development progresses

UAE: Al Aqariya Media Group has been contracted to promote the AED 7 billion Emirates Flag development in Ras Al Khaimah. Spread over seven blocks, with each themed around one of the emirates, the project will be 20% built in the sea. Offices, homes and hotels will feature, along with a large marina basin.

Untapped market

INDIA: With over 7,500km of coastline and several thousand kilometres of inland waters, India has an extensive cruising area just waiting for investment. Entrepreneurs, aware that the country is the second fastest growing major economy in the world and – unlike China – has a nautical heritage, were eager to take part in last October's India Boat Show where a conference was held to promote boating access. The topic will likely be raised again at the Mumbai International Boat Show (22nd-25th February 2007 – www.mumbaiboatshow.com) as top name boatbuilders that have set up in India perceive a serious challenge to continued growth.

Marinas 2007

AUSTRALIA: 'Marinas into the Future' is the theme set for Marinas 2007 (28th-30th May 2007, Surfers Paradise, Queensland). Organised by the Marina Industry Association of Australia in conjunction with the New Zealand Marina Operators Association, the conference and exhibition is set to be the marina conference of the year for the southern hemisphere. Information has long been posted on www.marinaeworld.com and in depth details can be found on www.marinas2007.com

Snowstorms wreck marinas

USA: Snowstorms in early December last year wreaked havoc at marinas on the Lake of the Ozarks in mid Missouri. According to various newspaper reports, including articles in the *Kansas City Star*, record damage was reported by up to a dozen marinas which experienced boat sinkings and the collapse of roofs on covered slips. At the lake's largest marina, Moorings Yacht Club, nigh on 75% of slips were likely affected by the storms and private docks around the lake were likewise seriously damaged.

CLARIFICATION

In the Lake Como article in our September/October issue (Vol 7, Issue 1) we reported that Ingemar Srl had secured a contract for the extension of Como Marina. Ingemar points out that it is just one of the public tenderers for the project and that a contract has yet to be awarded.