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RON SIM, CEO, OSIM INTERNATIONAL

YACHT SPECIAL

**AHOY! LUXURY CRAFT HEAD EAST
THE ALLURE OF A HOME ON THE HIGH SEAS
KITTING OUT YOUR NEW DREAM BOAT**

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THE BRIEF

ENGINEERING STYLE

TEXT CHARMIAN LEONG

A hundred components, a seamlessly shifting series of gears and wheels, a gold and titanium case, smoked sapphire crystal and Cotes de Geneve patterns. You're thinking of a high-end watch, but we're actually describing a belt buckle.

Swiss designer Roland Iten creates wondrously complex accessories that are as functional as they are beautiful. Take the RCD 81 Mk.I credit card case for instance. Flip a discreetly placed switch on the side and four cards will pop out of the case in a cascade.

Then there are his cufflinks, which can be manoeuvred into displaying diamonds for a night out on the town or keeping them hidden during meetings. They are even adjustable depending on how tight you want your sleeves.

"A watch has two main parts – the case and the movement," Iten says. "It's the same with my products, but you are the movement."

Which is why comfort is the most important factor in his design process. The recently released R22 Mk.I Bugatti edition belt (pictured) has the ability

to instantly expand to a range of 22mm with a quick flip – so you don't get the usual gut-pinching sensation when you sit down.

All Roland Iten products – even his shoelace tips – are issued in limited and numbered editions. "My goods are not for people who work in a bank; they're for the men who own the bank," he shares, adding that Johann Rupert, CEO of Richemont SA, was among his first customers when he launched the brand in 2003.

"When you open the door of a taxi, there is no excitement. But there is such a sensation from opening the door to a Bentley! That is the kind of feeling I want to bring to everyday products." ❖



ROLAND ITEN
Turning accessories
into mechanical
masterpieces