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GLASS BOATS:

Prospective customers from the Icelandic Fisheries come to Portsmouth to inspect boats made of Dacorine, a combination of polyester resin and fibre glass which is stronger than timber and can be mass-produced more cheaply. Resin and fibre-glass are laid in a mould and bonded together to make a skin which is unaffected by sea water, and cannot rot, corrode or warp. It can't split at the seams because there aren't any seams. It doesn't need painting, either for preservation or for colour; the chosen colour is impregnated into the resin when its made.

If a hull should be damaged, a full-scale repair can be carried out in 24 hours. This 45-foot craft the Perpetua, hasn't been out of the water for four years - and she's still going strong!