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# The girls at Bitchin' Digs — Malibu designers impress



Tessa Marie Hendrie, left, and sister Alyssa Belle Hendrie are co-founders of Bitchin' Digs. Submitted photos/Bitchin' Digs

Barbara Burke, Staff Reporter  
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You might have seen them riding around town in a 1926 red Model T listening to Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. Or been treated to a peek into one of their many transformative projects, including a multi-million dollar mobile home in the Point Dume Club, affectionately dubbed the [Trailer Villa](#), a luxurious haven redesigned to the owner's specifications.

Malibuites Tessie Marie and Alyssa Belle Hendrie, aka The girls at Bitchin' Digs, knew from an early age that they would work in real estate.

"Our grandparents wanted to live in these incredible places, but they didn't have a lot of money," Tessa Marie said. "Somehow, my grandmother managed to get a villa in Mexico for them to live in one half of the year and an amazing place in Nevada that they could enjoy the other part of the year, and visiting them in those homes made us want to surround ourselves with beauty and to create our own special spaces because a lot of our best memories involve those incredible properties."

Added Alyssa Belle: "We always knew we wanted to do interior design. Tessa's first design was a garden-themed room with a trellis over the bed and orange paint on the walls to make it look like a secret garden."

Their dream began to evolve when Tessa Marie, then still in college, bought a house in "the cheapest part of Dana Point in the lantern district."

As the sisters giggled recollecting the property, Tessa Marie said, "It was the most rundown shack, but we decided to do something vibrant. We wanted our first real project to be our own so that we could hammer out all the issues before we worked with clients."

After some serious brainstorming, the pair went with a Caribbean theme.

"It was extremely colorful with lime green walls and a hanging bed on the porch," Tessa Marie said. "It was a funky little jewel of a house."

Branded the "Bitches' surf house," the sisters turned the property into an Airbnb — a constantly booked Airbnb.

"After that, guests who stayed there hired us to do buildings in Virginia and Maryland," Alyssa Belle said. "We renovated 74 buildings in those states and elsewhere."

After years of hard work, [Bitchin' Digs](#), a full-service interior and exterior design and real estate company, is a leader in the design space. "We have been lucky enough to be crazy busy with projects for the last several years here in Malibu and beyond," Tessa Marie said.

Projects of which they are most proud include the Trailer Villa in the Point Dume Club, said Tessa Marie, "a project that involved our tearing the bulk of the 'trailer' down and designing an incredible mix of raw materials, copious custom features including an electronic window to the master shower from the kitchen — simply to show off a floor-to-ceiling, backlit piece of onyx — a hanging Moroccan bed, a custom painted Moroccan ceiling and furniture that we designed for the space."

Gregory J. Bonann, co-creator of "Baywatch," is an enormous fan of the girls' work.

"The girls at Bitchin' Digs rock and working with them is like turning your project into a playful, sexy luxury vacation that creates an unforgettable experience," Bonann said. "Genius, professional, ethical, talented and just simply great to work with ... true artists to a T, let them do their thing. It's worth it and I am a lifelong fan of Bitchin' Digs."

Diane Everett, a Malibu Coldwell Banker real estate agent, is equally impressed. "I have worked with Bitchin' Digs several times and have found Tessa and Alyssa to be talented, efficient, and enjoyable to work with," she said.

"I highly recommend them for your designing needs."

Tessa Marie explained what motivates the pair as they design a space: "We're about creating something particular. Malibu's natural beauty is so incredible and we love to enhance, but not interfere with, a view. Each property is a work of art — nothing that we do is cookie-cutter. Rather, for us, design is not just about the visual, but the feeling of the property and the experience it creates for our clients."

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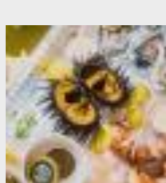
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