



Bella Pietra Design

MEAGAN & LAWANNA JENSEN

Enterprising Business Owners

A stellar mother-daughter team sets the bar for entrepreneurship and service.

Describe your company and its role in the construction industry. Bella Pietra Design has been in business and women-owned since 2001. We supply Hawaii's contractors, designers, architects and homeowners with beautiful tiles and slabs to turn their houses into homes. Our small team of three (we hired our first employee last December) takes pride in providing truly unique and one-of-a-kind materials. — *Meagan Jensen*

How has the construction industry changed for women since you first started? In 2006, I decided to get my general contracting license in Oregon and Washington. When I took

the four-hour test, there was only one other woman there. When I went to networking events, most people would ask if I was there with my husband or what my husband's company was called. Now, very few general contractors and installers do not have women represented within their companies. — *LaWanna Jensen*

How have women within your company advanced into leadership roles? I began working for Bella Pietra Design shortly after college as a sales associate, not knowing anything about tiles or slabs in my early 20s. The previous owner, who is a strong female mentor, advanced me to the role of outside sales, and I eventually became the sales manager. In late 2019, the owner called me into her office and offered to sell the company to me. On January 1, 2020, my mom and I became owners of Bella Pietra Design. — *M.J.*

LEFT TO RIGHT: Meagan Jensen & LaWanna Jensen, Co-Owners