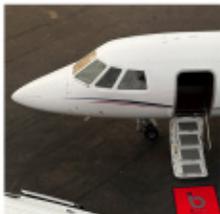


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# TRIP & JAMIE IVEY

## *Partners in Design Equals Smooth Sailing*

| BY HELÉNE RAMACKERS



license, imagining a career in yacht design or living life on the water. In the summer introductory design studio Jamie and I met. We frequently were found at each other's desks talking through design problems and realizing what a good team we are, both in the design world and emotionally. We were 'Mauied' in our last semester of school.

### **Did you have an influence in your youth that shaped your career paths?**

**Jamie:** I've lived in eight different states, in almost 20 different homes. Yet, no matter how little of a time I've lived somewhere, I've always managed to make my spaces look and function the best they can. Whether that was rearranging my bedroom furniture and covering my walls with posters as a child, or doing DIY decorating for my many apartments as a young adult. It has clearly always been important to me to be surrounded by beauty.

**Trip:** Family boating had a big impact that shaped my career path. As an Eagle scout, I was exposed to many experiences, such as sailing, that allowed me to find interest in a variety of subjects and careers.

### **You started your firm, Ivey Design Group in 2015. Working together as a husband-and-wife team sounds like the ideal platform to discuss ideas and navigate through challenges. Is that always the case?**

**Trip:** Jamie and I complement each other very well. Jamie has a very high level of taste, and while very creative, is also an incredible editor. This complements my rapid creative process in which many ideas are created. Jamie is great at sorting the wheat from the chaff. That said, it is very easy for us to bring work home and discuss design endlessly.

**Jamie:** Trip and I work mostly separately on our respective projects, yet we still collaborate and discuss all our projects together. He has always helped me with space planning, as he's very adept at solving the unique constraints of yachts. He has a much more technical job than mine, so I can't help much there, but I do help him from time to time on layout ideas, client management, and material selections. Work definitely bleeds into home life.

### **How valuable is the involvement and feedback from your spouse?**

**Jamie:** I'm a 'talk to think' person, so having someone take the time to listen to my design dilemmas and concerns really helps me in working through a solution. Since he's not in the weeds of my projects, it helps to have his fresh perspective.

**Trip:** Immensely valuable. If Jamie becomes stuck on a design, I can help generate ideas. If I become distracted from ideas, or work on things that need extra refinement, Jamie is a great director.

A mutual love for design inspired husband-and-wife team Trip and Jamie Ivey to put their passion into their own design firm, Ivey Design Group.

### **Jamie & Trip tell us a bit about yourselves.**

**Jamie:** I graduated with an engineering degree from Virginia Tech and began working as an IT management consultant in New York City. It was there that I discovered interior design, and I was immediately hooked. It took another seven years to finally follow my new passion, and I went back to Virginia Tech to get my interior design degree. Trip and I met at Virginia Tech's College of Architecture summer studio, an intense session where architecture, industrial design, landscape architecture, and interior design students have a condensed 'first year studio' experience, before separating out into their respective majors. He was going into industrial design; I was going into interior design. It was the beginning of our mutual love of design, and where we got to be in our design 'cocoon', without any distractions. It was a great start to our relationship.

**Trip:** Born and raised in Northern Virginia, many of my childhood memories are based on frequent family boating trips on the Chesapeake Bay. I went to Virginia Tech first as a civil engineering major, however, after a couple of years I realized that an engineering career was not for me. While switching majors into industrial design, I obtained a captain's



Courtesy HH Catamarans



Courtesy HH Catamarans



Image by Coty Jones

**You are an interior design firm. How did you end up doing yacht design, which is rather specialized?**

Trip: Jamie and I moved to southern California after graduation, and I ended up working for a prestigious yacht design company in Newport Beach. There I was trained in the various aspects of high-performance yacht design, especially 3D modeling.

When we moved to Richmond, VA following the birth of our son, Ivey Design Group started as an industrial design company, while Jamie continued working as a hospitality designer. While working as a consultant for various projects, I found a naval architect to work alongside for a variety of powerboat projects.

**You worked on a few catamarans when you were employed at Morrelli & Melvin.**

Trip: I landed my dream job when I began working for the Morrelli & Melvin design team. Right away I was brought into the world of the highest performance sailing catamarans. One of the most exciting projects was developing a line of high performance cruising catamarans for HH Catamarans. The project began for me as an intensive 3 day design charette in Poland, quickly working to create an exterior style and basic arrangement for a completely custom sailing vessel. The enthusiasm for the concept was enough that I was tasked to help create a series of semi-custom yachts with similar exterior designs. It was such a treat to step on board after having looked at the boats for so long on the computer. They are a LOT bigger in person!

Jamie: Once I joined Ivey Design Group officially, we got a website and Instagram, where we were posting both of our works. However, I had clients asking why I was posting about a yacht helm right after I posted a kitchen image...the branding was muddled and confusing. As the interiors side of the business was growing, we realized we need to separate our websites and branding, even though we were the same company. He now has his own website [www.tripivey.com](http://www.tripivey.com), where he shares not only his yacht projects, but his furniture design, product design, and art.

**Are you responsible for both interiors and exteriors?**

Trip: I design boats from the inside-out, and outside-in, creating a high resolution 3D mod-

el. A lot of what I do is working with various naval architects, engineers, and builders to ensure a high functioning performance craft. I can then build a design model that meets the evolving criteria to suit the needs of every party, especially the owner.

**What is the process involved in the designs?**

Trip: The design process varies for each project depending on the owner and team but follows a basic outline. First, design criteria are laid out. We need to understand the expected use of the vessel, and what the client may want it to look like. While introductory engineering is occurring to ensure certain performance criteria can be met, I create a concept model that can show the rough general arrangement (floor plan) and exterior design. The design then follows a design spiral with constant refinement occurring with every loop, ensuring everything remains balanced. This is often happening concurrently with the phase of the build process. The projects I work on are typically built using digital fabrication techniques.

**Please tell us about Skinny Witch.**

Trip: This was an incredible project to be a part of! The client had a very clear expectation of what the custom boat should be and an owner's representative that was a great communicator. The goal was a 55' fishing boat that could go 55mph with a Chesapeake deadrise style. This speed necessitates the highest performance materials, and processes, working alongside some of the best engineers in the field, as well as the amazing naval architect Lou Codega. None of the meticulous design would have mattered without a builder that could match the detail provided. The builder, Composite Yachts executed the project to an incredibly high level! When debuted, Skinny Witch was the star of the Annapolis Boat Show. If you see her on the Bay, good luck keeping up.

**Have 3D models improved the design concept and if yes, in what way?**

Trip: 3D models are paramount to my process. The concept can be presented in 3D early, to help 'sell' the project to the client. The digital 3D design process allows very high tolerance fabrication, and the team can fully visualize each element of the boat before it is made. In comparison to rebuilding or modifying high performance carbon laminates, electronics are

cheap to edit.

Jamie: We use 3D models for all our interiors projects, and not just in the final presentation. It helps us with scale, proportion, pattern and color, and helps us work through critical millwork details. By working and presenting in 3D in conjunction with physical samples, we help clients clearly visualize how their space will look and function, giving them the confidence to make decisions and move the process forward.

**Exciting projects on the horizon?**

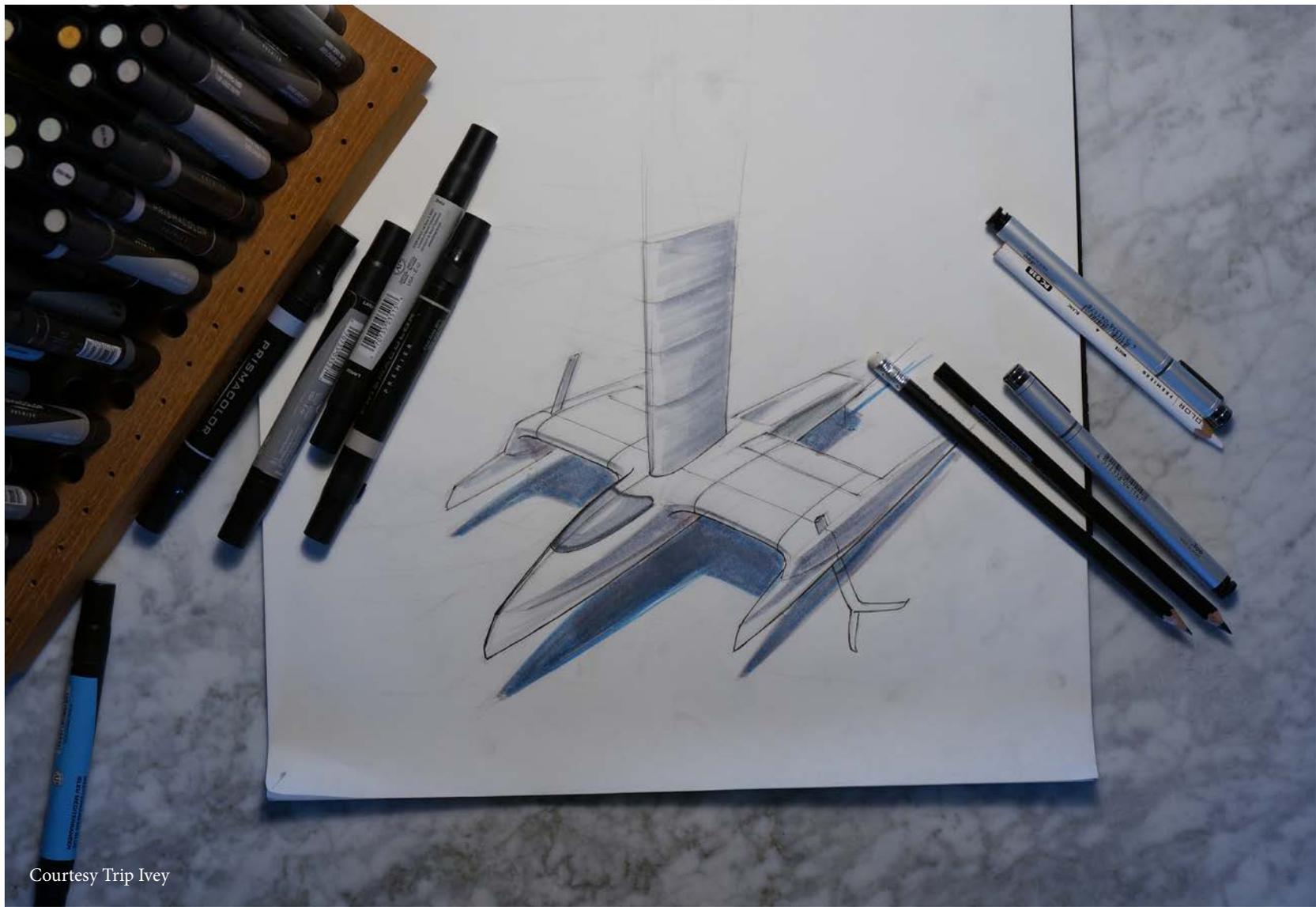
Trip: The high-performance custom boat industry is doing quite well. I have a great team to work with and have a handful of exciting projects to try to keep up with!

Jamie: We're working on a new construction home here in Richmond that has been so wonderful to work on. We have been involved from the very beginning, from space planning, interior finishes and millwork to furniture and décor, it's going to be a stunner! We're also working on a full renovation of a home in Telluride, and are wrapping up and photographing a few full home projects this fall. It's going to be an exciting year!❖

<https://www.iveydesigngroup.com/>  
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Courtesy Trip Ivey



Courtesy Trip Ivey



Image by Coty Jones



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