

Photos by BILL STARLING/Staff Photographer

# ARTS & CRAFTS TREATMENT

## Architect designs Fairhope doctors' office in people-friendly style

By **KATHY JUMPER**  
Real Estate Editor

**D**r. Lynn Yonge says your business office should be like your house — a reflection of you.

His new medical office at 405 N. Section St., in Fairhope, does just that, he said. "I wanted it to be comfortable and the arts-and-crafts style is people friendly."

The family medical practitioner's passion for art and mission-style architecture was incorporated into the design and furnishings of the two-story, 3,500-square-foot building in downtown Fairhope.

He hired Clay Adams of Walcott Adams Verneuille Architects in Fairhope to design the

new home for Bay Medical Family Practice. Bayshore Construction built the office for Yonge and his partner, Dr. Randall L. Hall.

Their offices were formerly in a medical complex off Hospital Drive in Fairhope, but after

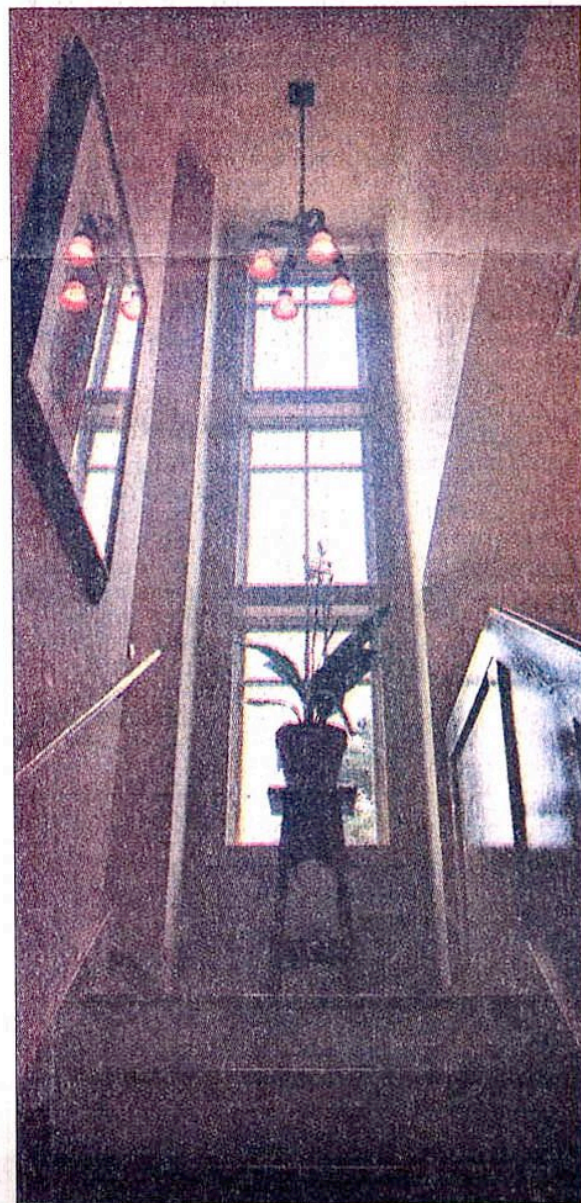
three years Yonge decided to build an office closer to the neighborhoods and old Fairhope.

"We were keen on this location," said Yonge, who calls it an extension of downtown Fairhope. "It's being rediscovered." More businesses are locating on the heavily-traveled Section Street, and existing business owners are updating their storefronts.

The doctors have been in their new location for three weeks and the patients are enjoying the new site, Yonge



**Adams ... an 'anti-strip-center approach'**



**Above, left:** The two-story, 3,500-square-foot office for Bay Medical Family Practice on Section Street in Fairhope was designed by architect Clay Adams in the arts-and-crafts style, a no-frill design using lots of solid wood, square edges and vertical shapes.

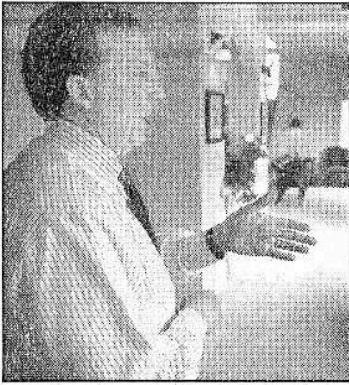
**Above, right:** Arches highlight the first-floor waiting area, which also is sprinkled with works from Dr. Lynn Yonge's art collection.

**Left:** Another feature of the design is the three stacked windows that stretch from the stairway to the top of the building.

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# 'This building is for the patients'



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**"We were keen on this location. It's being rediscovered."**

— Dr. Lynn Yonge

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said. "This building is for the patients," he said. At his other office, he found himself apologizing to patients 8 to 10 times a day for the parking hassle. Now, patients can park close to the front door.

## Parking spaces first

In fact, the parking spaces were designed first and then the building, according to Adams. There are 20 spaces in an area that is required to have only eight, Adams said. The building fronts close to Section Street and there are no spaces in the front of the building. Instead, the spaces are located all around the building in an "anti-strip center approach," he said.

The lot was small, Yonge said, "so what made this all work was having a good architect that could finesse the space. We had no room for error."

## Yonge artist, collector

Adams designed Yonge's

family home in Fairhope and knew that Yonge liked the arts-and-crafts design. Yonge is also an artist and a collector of art, particularly art by Alabama artists.

Ats-and-crafts is a simple, almost primitive, no-frill design using lots of solid wood, square edges and vertical shapes including long windows. Most of the woods used in the building are solid pine, stained or painted, except for the huge mahogany front door that features an arched entryway.

The doctors' business sign also carries out the arts-and-crafts style and was designed by Yonge and local artist John Rezner, and includes Rezner's custom-built pottery as accents. The sign also doubles as a mission-style bench seat.

"The sign does not scream I'm a sign," Adams said. "And it's pleasant to look at."

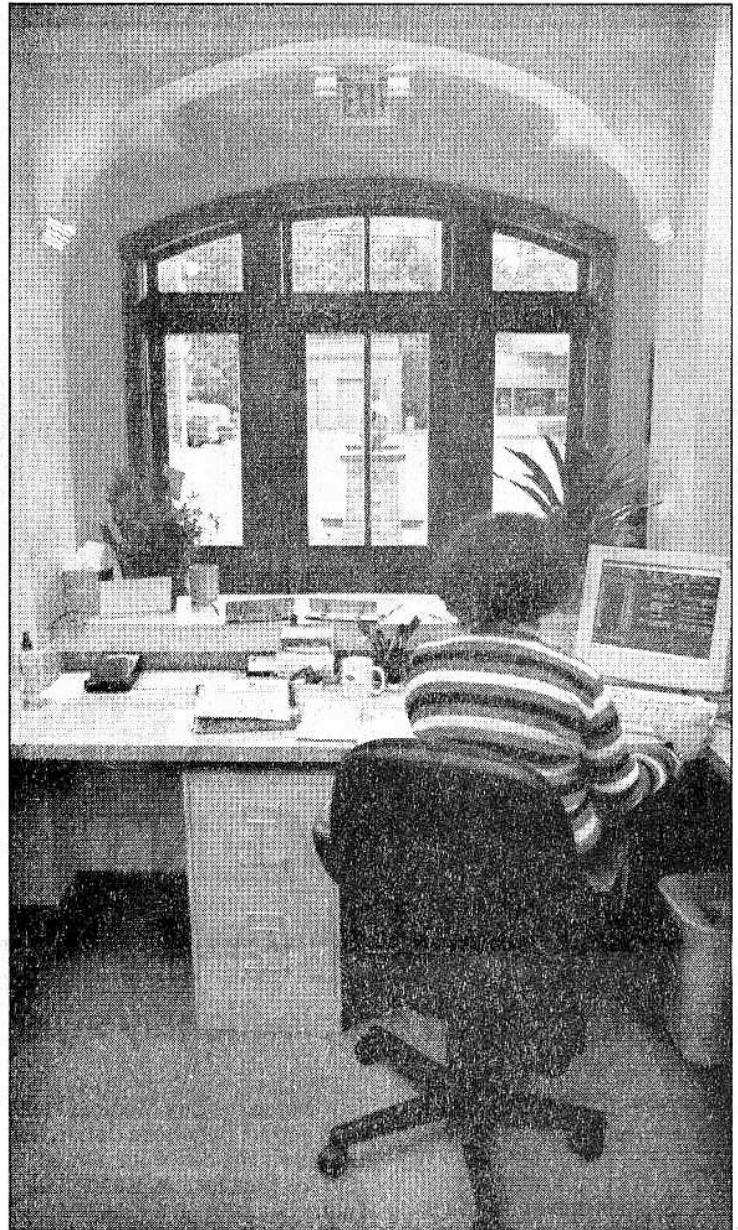
Other features of the design include three stacked windows that stretch from the stairway to the top of the building. The light fixtures, casement windows and earth-tone colors all blend with the mission-style design. The second floor includes staff offices and the doctor's private offices, which have balconies that overlook Section Street.

The first floor waiting room features some of Yonge's art collection.

## Setting the mark higher

Yonge said his colleagues have told him that the new office "sets the mark a little higher. I think it's just good for business." A family medical practice works well away from a hospital setting, he said.

"For the routine things we do, it's better to be close to homes and downtown," he said. "Simpler is better for us."



BILL STARLING/Staff Photographer

**Most of the woods** used in the medical offices of Drs. Lynn Yonge and Randall L. Hall are solid pine, stained or painted, except for the huge mahogany front door that features an arched entryway. Architect Clay Adams of Walcott Adams Verneuille Architects designed the building to reflect Yonge's passion for art and mission-style architecture.