

Operation Soothing

A cosmetic surgery center brings calm through architecture and design



When passersby come into your office just to get a closer look at the décor and drop some compliments, you know you've got a unique design going on.

That's the case at Lakewood Ranch Plastic Surgery & Skin Care, a first-floor office of a three-story, otherwise nondescript medical office building near Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. The facility is a new one for the husband and wife team of Drs. Joshua and Andrea Kreithen. To design their dream office, the couple worked with

Sarasota's Carlson Studio Architecture.

"Their old space was a typical, cold medical space with white bare walls," says Jedd Heap of Carlson Studio and primary designer.

"The doctors came to us looking for an organic, spa-type feel."

Carlson Studio pulled the look off with a smart use of natural materials like stone, cork and wood. Curvy walls, undulating ceiling light fixtures and wavy flooring transitions eliminate all sense of "boxy" office space

Dickinson Studio



NO BOXY, NO BORING Carlson Studio Architecture turned a typical doctor's office into a sustainable, stylish spa-like space. Lobby focal points are its stone and water walls.

Dickinson Studio



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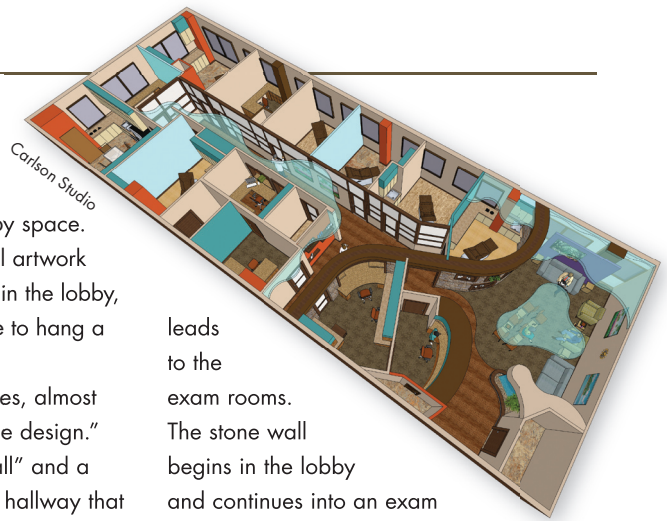
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within the five exam rooms, four offices and the tranquil lobby space.

Inspiration also came, Heap says, from the doctors' original artwork that's displayed throughout the space. The purple partial wall in the lobby, for example, was built to anchor the sofa and provide a place to hang a painting.

"Most of the scenes in their artwork are organic landscapes, almost surrealist," says Heap. "We wanted to integrate those into the design."

The lobby space has two main focal points – a "water wall" and a stone wall. The water wall screens the waiting area from the hallway that



leads to the exam rooms. The stone wall begins in the lobby and continues into an exam room, winding through the space and out to the exit. It's dotted with lighted apertures for product display.

Besides the obvious aesthetics, the project is registered to earn a "Silver" designation for green commercial interiors from the U.S. Green Building Council. The office is located in a corner of the building, which allows for daylight and outdoor views from most of the interior spaces. White translucent glass runs along the lower portion of the exam room corridor and clear glass runs above to provide ample natural light but maintain privacy.

Other sustainable features include:

- Zoned thermostats
- Carpet tiles with recycled content
- Renewable materials like cork and bamboo
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures and sensor faucets
- Lighting sensors and high-efficiency lighting
- Custom-built, no-added formaldehyde cabinetry and desks
- Low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) interior paint
- Reused and GreenGuard-certified furniture

The result is just what the doctors ordered.

"People tell us it's the prettiest office they've ever seen," says Josie Cirrintano, the doctors' office receptionist. "We get compliments all the time. Not only from patients, but from people going to see other doctors."

Says Heap: "When you walk through the door, it's a mindset change." ■



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