

Context & community involvement:



'Marking the Transition' - a phrase mentioned by the GP practice manager, Helen Deverson during an initial conversation with the staff of Dean Lane surgery, reflects the shared focus of all involved to ensure that the move to the new building was positively inspired.

The artworks were informed by various conversations & interactions with staff & patients at the former surgery in Dean Lane, whilst also observing the day to day comings & goings. Housed in an elegant listed building, originally a domestic dwelling, Dean Lane Family Practice had served generations of patients for decades & was imbued with personal histories, friendships & deep-rooted memories.

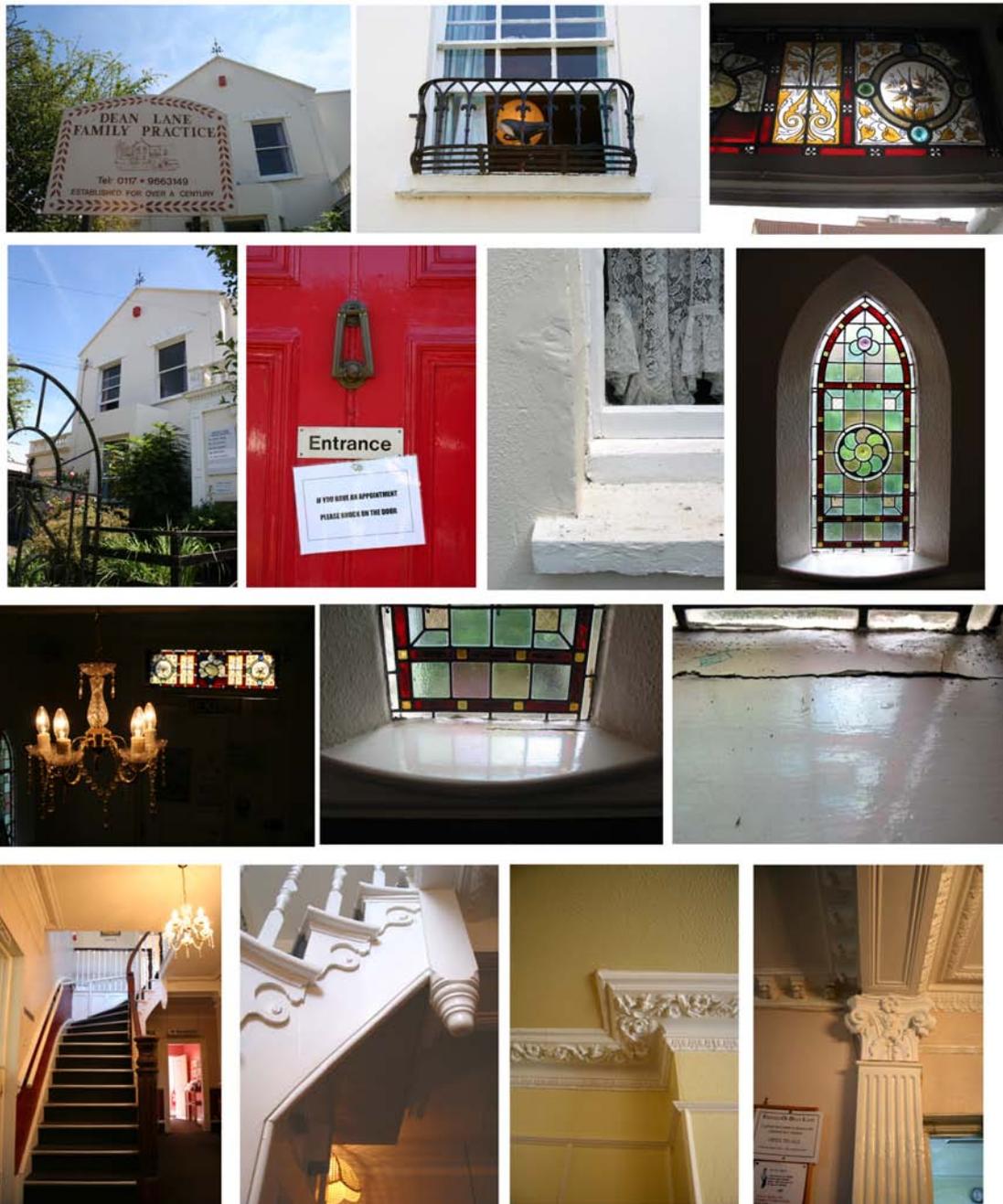
There is a very holistic feel to this Doctor's Surgery. Dean Lane is a small crowded urban street in a bustling, shopping/residential area near the centre of Bristol. The Family Practice is housed in a pretty Victorian villa surrounded by trees and flowers. The waiting room opens into a walled garden, where old apple trees give up their fruit to a host of bees and birds sing out warnings as a lazy cat stretches out in the sun. Like any other surgery it's busy all day, with at least three receptionists coping with calls and appointments and several doctors on call. Rose Flint. Poet in Residence 2000
<http://www.poetrysociety.org.uk/places/flint.htm>

In the initial stage a poetic response to the existing surgery by writer Alyson Hallet, and a series of photographic images by Annie Lovejoy were produced to encourage dialogue. Stories, memories and a vision for the new space began to emerge rooted in the comfort and familiarity of Dean Lane, particularly the garden.

My first reaction seeing the pictures was that I'd love to work in a place like that. It was only after a third glance that I began to recognise the details as being those of our surgery. I've been working here for 14 years and whilst I then recognised them - they had merged into the background. It's great to have them refreshed in this way. I'd like to think there is a way the images could be used perhaps even alongside some nice details from our new surgery but I'm even more excited at the thought of the various ideas you might have. Amidst all the discussions of heating pipes and suspended ceilings the art is a real breath of fresh air. Dr Ian Garbutt 14 Jul 2004

Here are the comments that staff wrote on the writing pad that was placed in reception for feedback after you came and spoke at the practice staff meeting in July. I think you suggested that they wrote single words or phrases that reflected their feelings about the current building we work in and perhaps thoughts about the new building (or what they wished to take from the old to the new surgery). Dr Gillian Rice

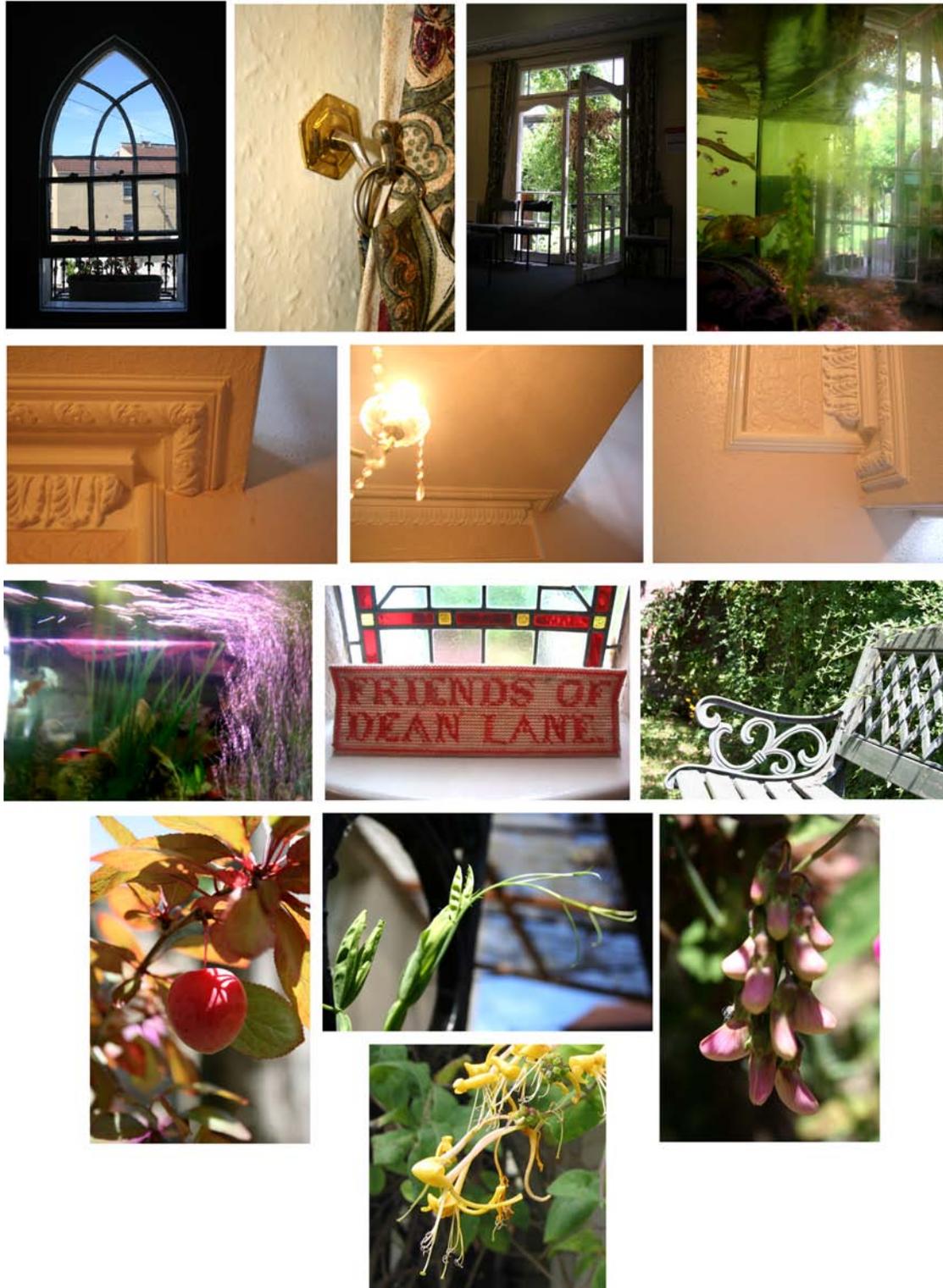
"Photos of this surgery were beautiful" (meaning the ones that you took Annie)
"Like idea of water feature" (lots of staff said they agreed with this) "fish tank",
"Calming colours", "stained glass window", "Trees" - "green apples" - "honeysuckle",
"Family tree" - the surgery is like a family and the tree in the garden
"History of the surgery", "Coal fires", "homely", "thrush nest", "garden bench"
"surgery cat" - there used to be one, "new building - light, airy, floaty"
"Photos taken by Dr Lavelle" - (they currently hang in the hallway of the surgery)



images of Dean Lane

Inviting the users of the surgery to participate with thoughts, memories and ideas related to *marking the transition* - from old building to new, generated themes for a series of poetry workshops led by artist and poet, Mac Dunlop. These workshops provided an opportunity for a "cross-pollination" of ideas whilst designs for the artworks were still in progress.

The focal point of the new waiting room is a spectacular Aquarium which incorporates a word bubble apparatus designed to accommodate removable handwritten text on clear acetate. This is displayed as an integrated moving image component of the Aquarium and offers an ongoing opportunity for creative expression and community participation.
(ffi.see artwork - Aquarium with text)



images of Dean Lane

In 2004 the Friends of Dean Lane, a patient participation group, was joint winner of the Royal College of General Practitioner's Patient Participation Award. They pro-actively organise events to raise funds for various surgery projects. High resolution image files of the Dean Lane surgery were donated to the group, at their request, for use in ongoing activities.