

The Bedminster Family Practice opened at the end of November 2005.

Client response: Dr Gillian Rice (NHS Practice Partner)

We are starting to feel a little more settled in the building after the first few days. There has been a universally positive reaction to your work, with gasps of admiration at the aquarium and atrium lighting feature. Several patients have commented how much more relaxing the waiting area is - just what we hoped it would achieve. Dec 2005

Can't tell you how many positive comments about your work we've heard from patients. They are all wowed when they come into the surgery and, without prompting, so many of them say how relaxing they find the new waiting area. I have a fantastic view of the entrance glazing, Every time I walk from my room to collect a patient from the waiting area I get a little mood enhancing buzz. I have been asked to give a presentation at a symposium on healthcare design in April so will be able to show your work to a wider audience. Jan 2006

Dr Gillian Rice is a general practitioner at Bedminster Family Practice here in Bristol. In addition to her clinical load as a GP, Gillian has worked with the media for more than 15 years. She co-presented the BBC1 series Bodymatters and numerous medical programmes for HTV. She has been a columnist for Woman and New Woman magazines and the Western Daily Press. She answered listeners' medical queries for over 10 years on Radio 2's Jimmy Young Show and writes and presents programmes for BBC Radio 4 <http://www.ubht.nhs.uk/evidence-in-practice/speakers.htm#rice>

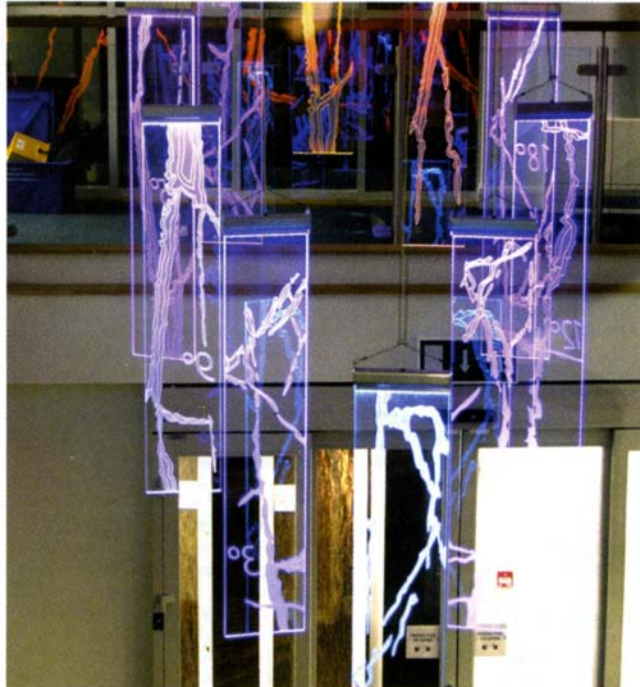
Local press (Venue Magazine - Bristol / Bath);

Picture of the issue

BEDMINSTER FAMILY PRACTICE ANNIE LOVEJOY AND MAC DUNLOP

● The decor of a doctor's surgery is generally better known for archaeological layers of health notices and, possibly, a yellowing print of 'The Haywain' suffering in the corner. So what a delight to discover that two of the most long-standing members of Bristol's leftfield art community were commissioned to create a significant piece of public art at Bedminster's new family practice.

The work is integral to the space and uses the acres of glass from the frontage to play with light on the interior. Designs on the double glass doors reflect a variety of subtle textures which are echoed in the glass work of the first storey, while a series of Perspex and LED panels hang in the foyer, changing colour in response to temperature. It offers the ailing a bright, uplifting experience, not to mention a fish tank, er, to die for.





Relaxing patients is an art

Dr Gillian Rice's practice has commissioned £38,000 worth of art for its new premises to help reduce patients' anxiety levels.

Works include a 10-foot long fish tank into which patients' poetry is projected; a mural that depicts their old premises' 100-year history as a GP surgery; and a lighting sculpture that changes colour with the temperature.

Dr Rice, a GP in Bristol, secured arts funding for half of the total - the rest was borne by the partners.

'We didn't want the new building to look like a clinical health centre but as beautiful and relaxing a place as possible' she said

'Anxiousness can inhibit the information patients give to doctors and can mean they don't remember what the doctor says to them as well.'

Dr Rice has started a research study into the effect of the new environment on patients' stress levels.