

The foyer of an elegant Jaycox-Reinel-designed home viewed from the living room and looking through the home's gallery. Photo: Lapeyra Photography.



JAYCOX-REINEL ARCHITECTS

Offering expert designs to the residential marketplace and beyond

BY ANNIE FISCHER

TO KEEP UP WITH THE RAPIDLY ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY it houses, healthcare architecture requires cutting-edge building, interior design, mechanical, plumbing, and electrical-engineering services. Consider the recent renovation of a 2,500-square-foot radiology suite at the Shands Jacksonville Medical Center, for example. The Shands biplane lab offers multiple simultaneous views, in real time, of a patient's cardiovascular system—and is one of only five angiography units of its kind in the whole country.

“With diagnostic imaging, you're always trying to get a better view of what's happening internally,” says Jaycox-Reinel Architects principal Stephen Reinel, who spearheaded the project. “But we also wanted a streamlined, attractive design for the room. These patients are awake during a portion of the procedures.”

Healthcare projects like this one account for about half the work at the Jacksonville, Florida-based architecture firm, and Reinel's projects have come with price tags of more than \$60 million. But the six-person firm also does

commercial work, too, and is well known for its upscale residential properties—and has been since William Jaycox founded it in 1989. Knowing one or two types of buildings inside and out is how you best serve your client, Reinel says.

Each project is approached with this focus on specialization. A core team—made up of an architect, interior designer, contractor, and client—takes part in decision-making in each step of the process, which typically includes five phases: programming, where the team develops a written list of wants and needs and a preliminary cost analysis; schematic design, where ideas for architectural plans and character are sketched out, and the budget is revisited; design development, the selection of materials, beginning computer drawings and design sketches, another review of the budget, and detailing of the entire project; construction documents, which incorporates completion of the project specifications, including all aspects of design and engineering; and construction administration, where the contractor prepares final cost of construction, a contract is agreed

AT A GLANCE

LOCATION:
JACKSONVILLE, FL
FOUNDED:
1989
EMPLOYEES:
6
AREA OF SPECIALTY:
RESIDENTIAL,
COMMERCIAL,
AND HEALTHCARE
ARCHITECTURE



Above: Jaycox-Reinel incorporated a courtyard and French garden into the design of this unique home. Photo: Lapeyra Photography.

upon with the owner, and the architect reviews the contractor's payment requests, performs site observations, and participates in construction meetings and project closeout.

Professional expertise isn't the only benefit derived from specialization. Relying on projects from the healthcare industry—which Reinel describes as relatively economy-resistant—also allowed the firm to survive when the number of residential building projects took a hit with

the economic crisis. Smaller renovation projects and cosmetic fixes for property purchased at a discounted rate also helped in the months following September 2008; eventually, in the first half of 2010, the architects saw things pick up again. "Diversity is a must," Reinel says. "You can easily paint yourself into a corner otherwise."

He also touts the firm's commitment to true-to-style detail and proportions as one of its greatest strengths, even when that commitment requires significant study of a style's history to understand the reasons for its origins. That's the difference in luxury homes, he says: knowing how to customize a project to the client's tastes while still being mindful of how the house should be built.

For one recent project—a 4,600-square-foot, one-story residence designed and built for a retired couple—Reinel studied up on the French Chateau. An uncommon style in Jacksonville, it was the first example of its kind that the firm had ever built. The architect developed the home's U-shaped plan to create a courtyard visible from most rooms within the house. Additionally, a private efficiency-type apartment was built on the property for a housekeeper or caretaker, should one eventually be required.

Similarly, for a 5,660-square-foot Cape Cod project inspired by the houses in the owner's hometown, Reinel flew to Maine to check out the originals. Hundreds of pictures later, he had the evidence he needed; careful details like paneled porch ceilings, authentic English brick patterns, and carefully proportioned dormers, columns, and roof lines now ensure the authenticity of the home. Attempts to accurately build with a specific style so often fail because it takes more time than what often seems required, he explains.

Not so for this firm. Says Reinel: "Our philosophy is to get the details right." ABQ



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