



GARY FANDEL/REGISTER PHOTOS



Jody Currie, above, has been teaching dance for 52 years. Her daughter, Jani Currie Ruggieri, took over the Currie Dance Studio last year. The studio at 3840 70th St. in Urbandale had an open house Tuesday so residents could see all the changes. At left, Austin Ruggieri, 16, and Alison Langston, 17, teach classes at the studio.

Currie studio jazzes things up

Daughter ready to continue mom's tradition in renovated business

By DREW BOYER
REGISTER CORRESPONDENT

Colorful, artistic, creative and innovative are four words that may come to mind when residents enter the newly remodeled Jody Currie Dance Studio in Urbandale.

The business is now covered with bright colors and pieces of art. The renovations come on the heels of last year's ownership switch, when Jody Currie handed full control of the studio over to her daughter, Jani Ruggieri.

"I'm very lucky and thankful that my mother is passing a successful business down to me and I look forward to carrying on the tradition," Ruggieri said.

She said the renovated studio, at 3840 70th St., is "energetic



After a three-month-long renovation, the Currie Dance Studio at 3840 70th St. in Urbandale showed off its new look to residents on Tuesday. Changes include a raised ceiling, newly painted walls and a relocated front desk.

and peaceful. I love to come to work. I come in and say, this is cool! With the bright colors, it's just so inviting."

Currie retired two years ago after teaching dance for 52 years. The Jody Currie Dance Studio has produced three Bill Riley Talent Show winners and many other talented dancers including Jason Hartley, who is part of the Washington (D.C.) Ballet. Students' ages vary from as young as 3 all the way up to 50.

Currie said she is pleased with the studio's new look.

"We are just thrilled with the way it turned out. We wanted something unique and we got it," she said. "We're very proud



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Above, Jody Currie, second from left, who has been teaching dance for 52 years, and her daughter, Jani Currie Ruggieri, who took over the Currie Dance Studio last year, talk at Tuesday's open house to Scott Cierzan of Firstcall Construction, left, who did the remodeling, and Bruce Pierce, right, of Concepts In Design Inc. At far left, Currie thanks Pierce and Cierzan for their work.

Currie studio gets a fresh look

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of it, and we want the students to be proud of it."

The inside of the studio used to be worn out and dull, dominated by colors of brown, tan and grey that showed 40-year-old building's age. The walls were carpeted with material more than 30 years old.

"The place looked worn out and cobbled. It needed major rehab," said designer Bruce Pierce of Concepts In Design Inc. "We spent a lot of time and energy into trying to make it child-proof because the kids would climb on anything."

Pierce said he interviewed many kids to find out what

they wanted to make the studio a happier, fun place. Also, the studio has new, high-tech bright lights compared to the earlier ones that were dim.

"It's awesome to walk around and hear people talk about it," Pierce said.

Some of the work included raising the ceiling, moving the front desk from the center of the room, painting the walls, bathroom and stairway renovations, redoing a wall in the basement, replacing rotted outdoor siding, choosing exterior paint with subtle colors and adding a new sign with a new logo. The project began May 1 and, after long hours and seven-day work weeks,

was completed on Aug. 1.

Contractor Scott Cierzan of First Call Construction said the studio was gutted down to nothing. Crews used many different construction applications, such as curved walls and cable-system glass, for the remodel. They had to buy most of the hardware over the Internet as it was not available in the area, he said.

"The fun part for us was to help them fulfill the desire to change this into a creative space —" Cierzan said. "This is one of the more fun projects we have done and the experience was good overall."

Danika Ruggieri, 10, Jani's daughter, has been dancing

at the studio since she was 2 years old. Danika said she didn't like the old place, but feels differently about the new look.

"I like it a lot. I always want to come here and I always think about it when I'm at school," she said.

Danika said one day she would like to run the studio herself and carry on the family tradition.