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SummerHouse store reopens in Ridgeland

By Nell Luter Floyd

nlfloyd@clarionledger.com

A fire in January 2005 shut down the first retail location of SummerHouse furniture and interior design, but the business recently reopened in Ridgeland.

Located in The Township on Highland Colony Parkway, the same shopping center as Fusion Coffeehouse and Soulshine Pizza Factory, SummerHouse features classic furniture with clean lines.

Furniture is arranged in settings from traditional to casual and relaxed, so you can get an idea of how the sofa that suits your fancy looks paired with a particular chair or coffee table.

"I didn't want a stuffy, dark furniture store," said Lisa Palmer, owner of SummerHouse. "I wanted something bright and open."

Palmer, who has a degree in interior design from the University of Southern Mississippi, spotted a need when she opened the business in the Fondren area of Jackson in 2003. "I was having trouble finding the right furnishings for my clients," she said.

Palmer said she's invested more than \$500,000 in her business, which is among the first retail tenants in The Township, 1109D Highland Colony Parkway. The business employs 12 people, four of whom are interior designers.

You can buy what you like right off the floor or custom order upholstered pieces. There are comfy leather chairs, sophisticated solid white sofas and dining tables. Couches range from \$1,600 to \$6,000; club chairs, \$770 to \$2,600; and lamps, \$300 to \$1,100.

"Jackson is still a very traditional town, but it's moving toward a cleaner look," she said. "People's lives are so hectic that when they come home, they want to have a home that is soothing and peaceful."

Palmer said she came up with the name SummerHouse while vacationing in Seaside, Fla., several years ago. "It had a connotation I liked," she said.

Joe Rankin, who co-owns Rankin Interiors in Jackson with wife, Judy, said he welcomes another place to shop for contemporary furniture. "We're always looking for new resources."

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

For more information, call (601) 853-4445.