



Dental Boutique puts patients in paradise

By David Petrikas

Picture yourself in paradise. Lush green trees, running water, soft sounds and delightful smells. Then picture yourself in a dental surgery. The two are worlds apart. Or are they?

“Dental Boutique” in the Melbourne suburb of Deepdene has created a sublime experience for patients in a spectacular setting which includes views to the tree canopy outside, natural light, running water, piped music, internal plantings and even aromatherapy aids ducted through the air conditioning.

This remarkable setting has been created through the vision of the directors of Dental Boutique - Dr Reuben Sim and



Dr May Chan, with the help of talented architect, Sam Russell of Create Dental, who has really gone above and beyond the norm to create this truly stunning practice.

The site for Dental Boutique was a large existing office that was to be converted into a large dental practice with room for up to 12 surgeries, four consult rooms, comfortable waiting lounge with separate VIP waiting area, reception with separate payments area, photo studio, lab, CBCT room, recovery room and supporting administration offices.

The brief was to create a welcoming “day spa” atmosphere, where patients could relax and enjoy the full journey of their experience at Dental Boutique. According to patient recommendations,



Dental Boutique lives up to its promise of “*changing smiles, changing lives*” in a sublime setting. This includes general dental, high-end cosmetic procedures and complex surgical treatments performed under anaesthetic.

To achieve the desired environment, the owners of Dental Boutique meticulously chose a selection of high-end natural materials, harnessed the natural light and views from the first floor and made the inside reflect the outside to create a feeling of peace and tranquillity far removed from a typical dental surgery.

On exiting the elevator to the first floor, patients are greeted by a “living wall” of ferns and colourful foliage, before rounding the corridor into the reception area with its spectacular “fractured marble” slab and timber fronted reception desk.





Alongside, a large black stone ball fountain cascades running water onto a bed of pebbles set into the timber bench-top, which leads to an airport lounge style amenities station, complete with beverage refrigerator and tea and coffee making facilities.

Two separate patient lounge areas, each with their own television, coffee tables, magazines and mixture of comfortable seating look out over the surrounding streetscape.

The clinical areas are accessed through a glass sliding door with an overlay of a forest scene that is repeated on the doors and internal glazing throughout the practice. The surgeries themselves look out into the canopy of plane trees along the length of the property. Borrowed light from these areas illuminates the internal corridors through the expansive glazing.

Close consideration was also given to the privacy of patients with separate VIP waiting room, post-treatment consult rooms, individual payment areas and separate entry and exits for patients.

The hallway accessing the treatment and consult rooms includes an attractive patient refresh area with marble backed basin, large mirror and individual terry cotton hand towels and potted orchid. It would not be out of place in a five star hotel.

The wall opposite the surgeries is adorned with large professional portraits of patients displaying their smiles - the result of cosmetic and restorative treatments performed. All the photos are professionally taken in-house by the team at Dental Boutique.

Behind the frameless automatic sliding doors, close consideration was also given to the efficient and functional workflows for staff. Using interconnecting administration and back-of-house areas, patients receive the utmost in personalised and confidential care, enabling them to discuss treatment plans and payment options in privacy.



A modern centralised sterilisation room and high-end lab behind another set of automatic sliding doors provide efficient working layouts for the back-of-house activities, which are discretely out of patient view. This area also houses the staff amenities including a generous kitchen with granite bench-tops, modern appliances and a large dining table, in addition to staff lockers and storage.

The clinical areas feature state of the art equipment. The centrepiece of each surgery is a mixture of A-dec 400 and A-dec 200 dental units, each with plush sewn upholstery and A-dec multi LED operatory lights.

The 10 operational surgeries include a dedicated “surgical operating theatre” complete with hospital grade anaesthesia and diagnostic equipment, located in the far corner of the practice.



Summary

The Practice

The Practice	Dental Boutique
The Principal	Dr Reuben Sim and Dr May Sim
Practice Type	General
Location	Balwyn, Melbourne, Victoria
Size	568 square metres
No of chairs	10 + 2

The Team

Architect	Create Dental
Construction & Joinery	Create Dental
Project Manager	Sam Russell
Installer	Medident

Equipment

Dental Units	A-dec 400, A-dec 200
Sterilisation	Dentsply Sirona DAC Plus
X-ray	Progeny, Vatch EZ Ray
CBCT	Soredex Cranex 3D
Compressor	Cattani AC900
Suction	Cattani MT3
Software	Dental4Windows

Because Dental Boutique also features a ceramics laboratory within the 531 square metre space, it facilitates unprecedented access between the cosmetic dentists, ceramists and patients within the same space. The aim is to create exceptional smile design, quality and personalisation with a significantly reduced turnaround time, especially for the convenience of their interstate and international patients.

Practice co-owner, Dr Reuben Sim, said the investment in A-dec equipment was balanced between providing optimum patient comfort - especially during longer procedures - and cost.

“We have a number of patients in for hygiene appointments or shorter appointments like simple fillings. The A-dec 200 chair is quite adequate for this and enabled us to buy more chairs for the same money,” Dr Sim said said.

“For longer appointments, like ‘All-on-4’, patient comfort is more important and the A-dec 400 is much better for that. Patients often comment on the comfort of the chair.

“Of course, patients are already feeling quite relaxed as a result of the design of the practice. The surroundings feel earthy and green which creates a nice calm environment.

“They love the warm and open feel of the patient lounge and the sunlit atmosphere and also the chair comfort in the surgeries,” Dr Sim said. “For anyone looking for an exceptional and experienced dental builder, I highly recommend Sam Russell from Create Dental. He has built our dream practice.

“Sam goes above and beyond to make sure you get what you want and delivers on time too! We to built this practice while still operating from our old site without losing a day of production.”

