

Experience the efficiency



To build a productive, future-proof clinic, Melbourne dentist Dr Jeevan Sivalingam found all the fitout expertise in Dentequip

By Danny Chan

Carrum Downs Family Dental is a three-surgery clinic located in south east Melbourne. Last October, the practice began operations providing general, implant, preventative and cosmetic dentistry to residents of Carrum Downs and its surrounding regions.

Founder and principal dentist Dr Jeevan Sivalingam had envisioned the patient friendly, family focused clinic by repurposing a residential site on 295 Ballarto Road. Four months prior, he hired the same renovation firm that worked on another practice he owns in Lynbrook to convert the 552-sqm property into a commercial one.

"One of my priorities was to create the greatest efficiencies possible," says Dr Sivalingam of his no-nonsense approach to the renovation. "We wanted a continuation in ambience and colors from our existing practice."

Having dealt with Dentequip before, the practice owner believed the fitout firm an astute choice. From the onset, Dr Sivalingam welcomed the firm's proactive working style: "Dentequip were with us from the very beginning, arriving with their architect to ensure the property we inspected was suitable for



a conversion to a dental practice, and helping realize a projected layout. From there they liaised with the council, engineers and planners to acquire relevant permits and develop the project from start to finish."

Based on Dr Sivalingam's ideas, a new internal layout for the 131-sqm building was designed and constructed – which literally meant overhauling the existing structure. Besides installing and equipping two main surgeries, a third was plumbed and wired for future expansion. The fitout team also took on external duties like rendering of car park and erection of an acoustic fence.

Smart, chic and efficient

The result is a handsome-looking single-story clinic that is both inviting in presence and unassuming in character. The remodelled property, with its large windows, milky toned façade and maroon coloured pillars, exudes contemporary charm. Yet unlike many modernistic designs that cross into outlandish territory, the building retains a winsome quality that sits comfortably with its "family dental" branding.

The sparse interior décor emulates a spa-like environment that



helps to calm nervous patients and children alike. Every furniture and equipment, from choice of colours to simplicity of design, conforms to the spartan look and feel.

Abundant natural lighting, bright down-lights and white walls, make the reception area look clean and sharp, while bigger than its actual size. The waiting area is cleverly partitioned in a way that allows patients and front desk operators to enjoy a bit of privacy from each other, yet avoid a sense of claustrophobia.

The surgeries and sterilisation room reveal careful thought process behind the layout and planning.

The window facing Belmont chair, turned away from the operational side of the room, afford both dentist and assistant manoeuvring space with clinical supplies within convenient

reach. The chair and cuspidor occupy a small enough footprint to allow an L-shaped bench-top that incorporates a sizeable (and deep) sink area and precious real estate for a computer, office desk and displayed consumables.

In the steri room, areas demarcated Dirty, Clean and Sterile areas, with designated sinks and instruments, allow an efficient workflow and organised system that auxiliary staff will no doubt appreciate. Evenly placed lights, great ventilation and ample storage space are further design attributes.

Thoughtful exterior features include a freshly trimmed lawn with surrounding framework of bright tanbark covered grounds that add a touch of vibrancy to the leafy suburban streets. The broadly paved walkways are wheelchair friendly and ramped for easy access. An acoustic fence keeps unwanted disturbances at bay to give patients a relaxing, noise-free environment.

Another great decision

Dr Sivalingam proudly shares how locals have commented on the refreshing change to their neighbourhood: "They are amazed at the changes".

On his experience working with the fitout firm, he heartily endorses: "They are extremely knowledgeable of the demands of the dental environment. I enjoy a very friendly and professional working relationship with their team.

"They understand the need for complete project management, specific efficiencies in terms of layout and equipment to enhance workflow, and understanding of future maintenance or upgrade possibilities to allow the building to grow with the practice."

As for the most compelling reason for choosing Dentequip, the repeat customer concludes:

"The service continues even after the job is finished. They don't leave customers by themselves once they get paid." ♦

