

Picture perfect gallery

By Danny Chan

Relocating to a brand new surgery was the sweetest possible way to celebrate The Dental Gallery's 10th anniversary. Not only did the practice cap off a decade of astonishing growth, the completion of the building project was in many ways a labor of love for its founding partners.

Drs Donny Mandrawa and Nomita Gonsalvez are the proud owners of this vibrant surgery that has taken the patient community of Point Cook by storm. Employing four dentists, an oral health therapist and seven dental auxiliary staff, it is notably the largest dental practice in the idyllic West Melbourne suburb. As of July 2014, the practice had accumulated 11,500 active patients while racking up fresh dossiers on 1000 new patients every year – an amazing feat for a surgery of its size.

For a practice built upon on word-of-mouth referrals, it is little wonder that the principal partners demand from themselves, as well as their team, the highest possible level of patient satisfaction. This ethos can be seen written large from their investments in the latest dental technology and expansion of services. It is also evident from cumulative efforts towards the design and construction of the new building, which remarkably took five years to materialize.

Although the vacant corner land had been purchased in 2009, it wasn't until September 2013 that actual construction began. The design and preliminary processes kicked off in 2010, with exterior building design by Alex Cornall. Dr Mandrawa, who is a building enthusiast and avid student of architecture, laid out the floor plan while wife Ayako, came up with interior design.

Fitout company Dentequip was enlisted to bring the vision to life. Adept at surgery-related construction and project management, the company provides complete practice fitouts as





well as equipment sales, service and maintenance. In the end, the ideas, experience and knowhow meshed seamlessly – as results readily attest.

Striking portrait

Standing proud amongst residential neighbors, the building with its steel-glass-and-stone facade fuses a sublime chemistry of tones and textures. Imposing steel columns add an air of authority while enhancing the modish structure. “Alex managed to turn a rectangular-shaped outline into something interesting,” enthused Dr Gonsalvez. “The high towering roof-line at the front corner of the building provides a commanding presence.”

Not to be outdone, the interiors are just as visually engaging. Stepping behind two sets of large sliding glass doors, presumably designed to keep unwanted street noise at bay, the patient enters into an oasis of calm. High ceilings, pure white walls and furnishings with accents of lime green exude all the modern charms of a relaxed environment.

Dr Mandrawa’s floor plan divides the practice into three main areas: Welcome area (reception, patient lounge, tooth-brushing



station, private communication rooms), clinical area (dental operatories, sterilization area, laboratory, radiography room, storage rooms), and private area (dentist office, manager’s office, staff lounge).

The 3-chair surgery (fourth to be installed soon) is not all beauty without brains, technologically speaking. The comprehensive set-up includes a Belmont and two Sirona chairs, two Mocom Autoclaves, a VistaScan Perio digital X-ray, VistaCam iX with Proof and practice software Exact’s Software of Excellence.

Perfect timing

Thanks to Dentequip, not only is the equipment thematically color-matched with surrounding furniture, installation and renovation were able to proceed without a hitch. As anyone can imagine, having a surgery fitted out by a dental industry building specialist that also happens to supply and maintain dental equipment has its distinct advantages.

In the case of TDG, Dentequip’s Cale and Chloe Ziola managed the entire project, ensuring every job met its stringent deadline – which Dr Gonsalves deems as the project’s biggest challenge. They extended rent on the old site for another month to accommodate Council delays that held the project back by a few months. It could have taken longer, if not for “the dynamic duo of Dentequip”, Dr Mandrawa hails. “Cale and Chloe are very approachable, down-to-earth, up-front, and easy to get along with. They both work extremely hard, even to the late hours on some nights.”

Ten years after welcoming their first patient on 31st May 2004, TDG moved into the new building on 22nd April 2014. And much like its gorgeous new premises, the timing was impeccable. ♦



For more information visit dentequip.com.au



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