

Meeting budget with style and substance



Dentequip shows why an elegant surgery plus sophisticated equipment does not equal an overblown budget.

By Danny Chan

How do you convert a 52-sqm. unit space into a cutting edge two-chair operatory that is warm, inviting and family-oriented? That was the \$250,000 question posed to Cale Ziola, Director of Dentequip (Australia) Pty. Ltd., and his team of experienced fitout experts. Preferring to let results speak for themselves, Cale's taciturn response is simply: "Take a look at the surgery."

The surgery, referring to Surrey Hills Family Dental Clinic, recently underwent an amazing design and fitout makeover, that Cale himself is proud to put Dentequip's "quality stamp" on. In fact, Cale personally sees to it that every detail of any project bearing Dentequip's reputation undergoes stringent quality checks, from workmanship to plumbing to garden landscaping. With 14 years of technical knowledge, the former factory-trained technician has been managing projects for six years, and is versed in all aspects of fitout and equipment installation.

The director asserts: "Dentequip has been in this industry for 13 years, and has

earned a reputation for its high standards of quality. We will not allow it to be tarnished by sub-standard products."

The Victorian-based firm — that serves all Melbourne metro areas and regional Victoria — is associated with renowned brands like Belmont, Cattani, Melag, Satelec, Soredex and Dürr Dental, among others. Dentequip also provides customers additional quality assurance with their own firm warranty. Sourced from industry-leading manufacturers, Dentequip recommends products that cater to every practice facet; including surgery, sterilisation room, plant room and laboratory.

The Surrey Hills project is archetypical in utilising Dentequip's all-encompassing equipment and fitout services. In addition to conceptual design of the overall project, the equipment specialist was responsible for: Site analysis; town planning application (parking reduction); specifying products used in the project; interior design, construction; and sand overseeing the building process etc.



Working within the tight existing retail shell, the design has been carefully planned to address the client's brief, while meeting structural specifications, including layout that fulfils the class 9a building DDA access requirements.



Classy, understated design

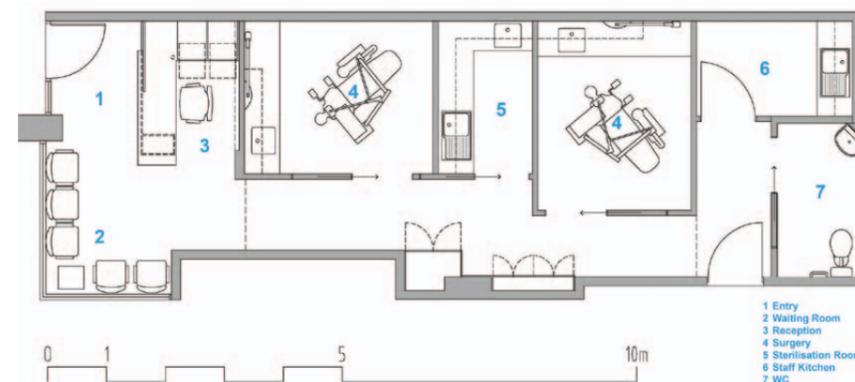
Cale is justifiably proud as the design is not only refreshing in concept but also tasteful in style. Offering a placid ambience, the overall concept is one of contemporary but restrained elegance with a hint of playfulness.

For the surgery and auxiliary rooms, the interplay of muted background hues and strips of bright colours on the cabinetry, works cohesively. The same is true of the reception counter; flashy jade-coloured floral wallpaper brings out the contrasting white monolithic corian bench top. For subtle effect, the bench top incorporates an LED illuminated signage, and accented along the sides, stained hardwood battens and rippled glass.

The fancy, custom surgery doors immediately stand out with laser-cut timber veneer on clear acrylic resins. Combining ornate design with understated colours, the numbered entrances are a visual delight if only for the textured surfaces that shimmer under warm corridor lights.



BEFORE



In surgery one, intricate embellishments such as the lime green accent strips and faux stone bench tops sit exquisitely with the neutral tones of floor and wall-hugging cabinets, as well as the dental chair with matching upholstery. White fluorescent lighting is used impeccably here to showcase the Belmont centrepiece, while creating an illusion of space.

The bright and "spacious" theme continues into the sterilization room. The design astutely compensates for the narrow area using wall-to-wall cupboards and drawers. This allows ample standing room for dental assistants and enough hidden space to stow away unsightly bottles and disposables. A sight for sore eyes, the clean white laminates of the cabinets are tastefully accented by burnt orange strips.

Choice equipment

In terms of equipment, Dentequip's dual criteria for recommendations were reliability and low-maintenance. The Belmont Clesta II dental unit and over-the-patient light package was selected for its modern and comfort features. Cale observes: "Of all the chairs available today, the Belmont is perhaps the simplest to operate and easiest to maintain."

Dentequip also outfitted the family

surgery with benchmarking apparatus across the multi-purpose facility: NSK's micromotor and handpieces was chosen for high-speed rotary precision and quality after-sales; Cattani suction and compressor systems for robustness and efficient work rate; Digora Optime 2 for state-of-the-art imaging etc.

Although total estimated cost was set at \$280,000 (\$140,000 fitout + \$140,000 equipment), the project was completed below budgeted expenses at \$250,000.

Cale discloses: "Dentequip is able to keep the costs down by planning ahead, understanding the entire process, employing an experienced group of tradespeople and managing time efficiently."

Complete with vogueish accouterments such as touch-free, proximity-sensor sterilization, the Surrey Hills Family Dental Clinic stands apart as a stylish yet practical surgery. Thanks to Dentequip, what was once an empty retail space with irregular wall structures is now a fully equipped surgery that emanates sophisticated modernity. With à la mode design and top-drawer equipment, the staff and patients alike at Surrey Hills Family Dental Clinic can look forward to what Cale nimbly describes as "quality dentistry in a chic environment." ♦