



Making the most of a small space

Dr Dimitri Poverenov has just opened Labrador Dental, his first practice located on the Gold Coast in Queensland.

“My wife and I immigrated to New Zealand from Central Russia in 1995,” he said. “I had Russian Dental qualifications but neither of us could speak a word of English. We spent some time in New Zealand while I completed a three-year diploma in Dental technology and then passed my Dental Registration exams in New Zealand in 2001.”

Dr Poverenov spent the next two years working as a dentist in New Zealand. In 2002, he and his wife, Olga, who is a dental technician, moved to Australia and worked as a locum in and around the Gold Coast for various dentists.

“I was keen to set-up our own practice in the Gold Coast and I found a small ten-



ancy. I had no idea how to organize a design or a fit out. An article in Australasian Dental Practice magazine on a fit out in Perth for Dr Spiro Agapitos was similar in size and shape so I rang Spiro and was impressed with the quality of design and fit out and the feedback from him,” Dr Poverenov said. “Medifit had loads of experience in dental and knew all about my equipment and operational needs. From day one, they advised me of the total likely costs involved in my design and my fit out. The final price was within the budget except for a few minor extra items I wanted included.”

Medifit developed a design incorporating Dr Poverenov’s wish list into the small space and still managed to innovate.

“Dr Poverenov wanted a dual surgery design where he could fit-out the second surgery as his practice developed. We



have found this is a very common approach with start-up practices and a very good way of keeping a lid on the huge initial costs of a practice set-up,” said Sam Koranis, Managing Director of Medifit.

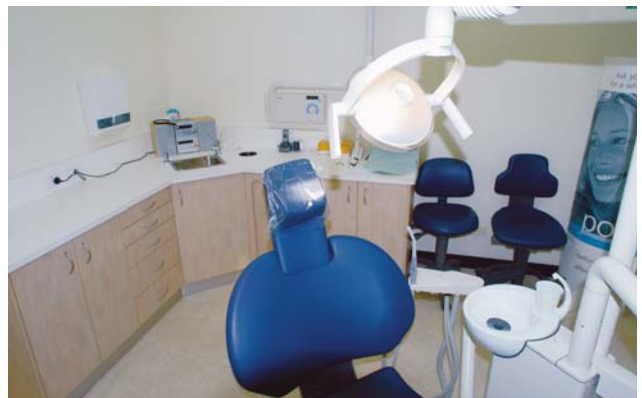
“The service and level of presentation in design we received from Medifit’s Perth head office was great,” Dr Poverenov continued. “The plans and the three-dimensional computer artwork were fantastic. Because they are in Perth, I think they worked harder to make sure I was satisfied with everything.

“The time difference was an advantage too. As we finished work, they were still hard at it and we arranged meetings over the phone with the design office as we needed. It was actually a lot easier than getting a Brisbane designer to the Gold Coast at that time of the day. Sam Koranis and the staff of Medifit were always easily contacted and accommodated my every need.”

According to Medifit design director, Geoffrey Raphael, planning Labrador Dental was a challenge due to the shape of the tenancy. “It was long and narrow and the reception needed a light and bright approach as space was at a premium. A very simplistic curved counter also assisted in not dominating this space.”

“The site was previously a medical surgery and had a long narrow aspect which was a bit daunting until I saw the article in Australasian Dental Practice magazine. With our design and functionally, everything is in a place for a reason,” Dr Poverenov said.

Mr Raphael resisted including the obvious long straight narrow corridor and instead shaped access around the working requirements of the surgeries. This gives huge relief to the small space and frosted glass vistas deliver privacy to the surgeries while maximum the feeling of openness.



SURGERY DESIGN



The sterilization room is efficiently placed between the two operatories with seamless flow between. The cross infection control guidelines have all been considered and planned into the design for both the sterilization room and the surgeries. The surgery seems spaciouly designed which is amazing with the constraints of the small space. All the latest innovations by Medifit have been used to create the most efficient and smooth running surgery whilst maintaining a comfortable client environment.

The surgery has been designed utilizing the L shaped configuration of cabinetry to maximize the space available. Dr Poverenov chose Sirona chairs along with all his equipment from Darryl Ryan at Halas in Brisbane.

"Daryl and the team at Halas were fantastic," said Dr Poverenov. "The level of service and the quality of the equipment was my criteria for choice of supplier and they met both with flying colours."

At the back of the tenancy is the lab and lunch area, which are out of public view but left open plan for efficiencies and dual usage of space.

"The execution and construction of the plans were smooth and very well organized," Dr Poverenov said. "Overseen by the very efficient Claus Hein, Medifit's Project Manager in Queensland, all the workmen were very professional and accommodating when I went on site. The project was completed within the estimated time of four weeks which allowed me to concentrate on my dentistry rather than worrying about being a project manager."

Mr Koranis said that Medifit's mission statement is "to provide to Australian Dentists an innovative and superior design and construction service, an economical offer to the highest standards of workmanship and service."

"Medifit has developed their own standards and proprietary systems for cabinetworks, compact model storage

units, chair plumbing boxes, x-ray support systems, plumbing and electrical shut-off systems and more. These standards have been implemented to create greater efficiencies and longevity of the fitout. My background in Accounting has also acknowledged that the cash flow of the Dentist is of paramount importance, which leads to the high priority Medifit has put on completing their projects on time. Further to this, our detailed breakdown of costs helps your Financial Advisors in implementing the most tax beneficial structures."

"The feedback from the patients has been phenomenal," Dr Poverenov said. "The first reaction is how spacious and light the whole area is and how spacious it all seems. Everyone also comments on the great colour scheme. All the equipment receives rave reviews and they love the level of comfort and expertise provided. I can see us fitting that second surgery out earlier than expected."