



Buderim Dental grows up

After graduating from Adelaide University and 7 years of private practice experience, Dr Chris Patel established Buderim Dental in 2009. Dr Patel and his partner, Practice Manager Kacey Mattock, had searched for months for a site which offered the right potential to realise their dream practice. Buderim Dental thus started life as a 2-chair practice occupying a 92sqm tenancy in the heart of Buderim on the Sunshine Coast.

The job of designing and fitting out this first practice was awarded to Medifit. Prior to engaging Medifit, Dr Patel had spoken with a colleague who had just finished a ground up build with Medifit in South Australia. It was clear by the end of this project that Medifit had met and exceeded all expectations. The high level of finishes and overall design intelligence was

self-evident and the project was completed on time and on budget. The results spoke for themselves and Medifit was promptly engaged to create Buderim Dental.

The design and construction of the original practice was completed in just four months (including council liaison and all the necessary statutory approvals) and was previously covered in an earlier edition of *Australasian Dental Practice* (Nov/Dec 2009, Vol 20 No 6).

From the day the doors first opened, Buderim Dental has enjoyed steady growth. After 3 years at the initial location, the opportunity arose to purchase a larger tenancy in the same building.

"We'd grown out of the current premises at Suite 4," Dr Patel said. "The days were steadily growing longer (in excess of 50 clinical hours a week) and still we were booked out for 5 weeks. It was obvious we had to expand and create space for more dental staff.

"The decision to choose Medifit again was easy. Their attention to detail was impeccable, not to mention their follow-up and warranty. Nothing was ever too much trouble."

One of the key benefits of keeping the practice in the same building was that existing patients are easily retained. The smaller practice had been a great success and Dr Patel wanted to expand to 4 or 5 surgeries and create a similarly styled practice with a feeling of openness and space. In addition to a much larger area, the new suite had a full glass frontage opening directly onto a pedestrian concourse. This window frontage provides plenty of natural light and gives the new practice a real sense of air and lightness. The overall ambience throughout has been created by balancing the natural light with internal wall lighting to accent the architectural elements of the building.



3D rendering developed in the design phase.



Extra high ceilings also enabled the inclusion of a mezzanine level, further increasing the available floorspace and providing Medifit's space planners with a wealth of options. The requisites for the new space included 4-5 surgeries with one designated as a hygienist room, an OPG room, steri/lab area, central practice manager's office, dentist's office, staff room, reception and a waiting area with children's nook and bulk storage.

With so much space at their disposal, it was important to the couple to not lose the personal patient experience that the existing practice had been built on. Careful design consideration was given to ensure the spaces were warm and welcoming and that there was continuity throughout the design. Textures and finishes throughout the waiting and reception areas have been carefully selected to provide a contemporary but friendly feel.





The reception area boasts sleek clean, modern lines. The counter is linear in design and terminates with a vertical blade wall clad in a striated ceramic cladding that provides a visual contrast to the lighter colour palette used throughout the practice. This detail is repeated to a height of almost 5 metres at the junction between the lower ceiling level to the front of the practice and the open corridor to the mezzanine. The stronger charcoal tones are most prominent above reception and continue around to accentuate the angled feature wall of the waiting room. Formed ply and acrylic feature boxes provide visual relief behind reception and include attractive built-in product displays.

The overall finishes and colour palette is a mix of whites, greys, light timber and a subtle blue accent colour based on the scheme in place in their former practice. The blue accent colour was



replaced with a more textured range of products in a clearer ice green and used strategically along a corridor and on the reception counter to provide a fresh feel and pick up the colour in the logo.

Brochure display areas and built-in recesses for books and magazines in the waiting room provide a focal point for patients. Children are able to play in a small activity nook with a wall-mounted television. The waiting area has been designed to deliver an harmonious environment for the many families visiting the surgery.

To maintain the open feel of the original practice, the same glazed doors with frosted graphic detail were featured throughout. This further assists with maximising the natural light. The mezzanine level contains a generous staff kitchen area with breakfast bar overlooking the rear courtyard.

The new fit-out is fresh, modern and practical. And Dr Patel loves the "airiness".

"For Medifit to complete the fit-out from an empty shell in 7 weeks was amazing," he said. "Claus, Medifit's Queensland project manager, was on-site for 97% of the project. This gave Kacey and I peace of mind, knowing that if there were any issues, Claus was here to sort it out. After building with them twice, I would recommend Medifit without doubt to anyone wanting a new practice. Why? Come and have a look for yourself!"

Summary

The Practice

Principal	Dr Chris Patel
The Practice	Buderim Dental
Type of Practice	General
Location	Buderim, Queensland
Size	214 square metres
No of chairs	4

The Team

Interior Design	Medifit
Construction	Medifit

Equipment

Units	Sirona C4+, C8+, SINIUS and TENEO
Sterilisation	Sirona DAC Universal, Sirona DAC Professional and Miele Thermal Disinfector
X-Ray	Sirona HELIODENT
OPG	Sirona ORTHOPHOS XG 3D
Suction	Dürr VS600/900
Compressor	Dürr Duo/Trio

