



## Natural wonders meld with clinical practise

BY JOSEPH ALLBEURY

**T**he decision to build a brand new practice is always an exciting time. It's a chance to leave the past behind and to develop a facility that imparts your character and philosophies into the surrounds. It's also an opportunity to consider your future directions and ensure you create the ideal working environment.

When it came time for Auckland-based periodontist Michael Danesh-Meyer to move, he took considerable time and effort from his busy clinical and lecturing schedule to make sure he got it just right.

His new 300 square metre facility located on the top floor of an office block is state-of-the-art while at the same time reflecting the natural environment for which New Zealand is renowned. It's also designed to

cater to the three areas of the practice that he believes are his future direction.

"As a periodontist, I became very interested in implants from the outset," Dr Danesh-Meyer said, "so principally, the practice provides an ideal environment for specialist practice, from consultation through surgery and recovery. This aspect of the business is operated as the Institute of Dental Implants and Periodontics.

"Dental hygiene is also an integral part of the practise of periodontics, so we have developed the first fully integrated oral hygiene spa within the facility, which is run as a separate entity and is now beginning to attract its own clientele. At the same time, the oral hygiene spa is fed by the periodontally-compromised patients of the Institute.

"The third arm of the practice is the Auckland Clinical Training Centre which is intended to provide clinical education for the profession in groups of around 20 people. The facilities for this include a training room and a range of AV equipment to so you can watch live surgery taking place in one of the treatment rooms.

"We briefed the architects to deliver these three elements but in an integrated fashion as they are all designed to compliment each other."

Mr Clark Pritchard from Martin Hughes Architects & Design was placed in charge of developing the layout of the new practice which incorporates seven treatment rooms, central sterilisation area, reception and back office, OPG room, recovery



room, lab the training room, staff facilities, office space and plenty of storage.

The largest of the seven surgeries is fitted with cameras and audio visual facilities connected to the training room. The other six rooms are virtually identical and used by Dr Danesh-Meyer and his dedicated team of hygienists.

“The architects did a very good job and have managed to integrate it all very well,” Dr Danesh-Meyer said. “The clinical areas are towards one end of the practice and the training facilities are at the other. We can see patients and run a course at the same time without any problem. All aspects of the practice can operate independently and concurrently but also work in together when required.

“Part of the brief to the architects also was that we wanted to give patients the impression of a state-of-the-art practice, as good as they would find anywhere in the world, but also give it a unique New Zealand and Pacific feel. To facilitate this, they managed to incorporate a large island stone water wall in the reception area and use a lot of natural materials to give the practice more of a lounge feel than a stark clinical environment.”

In contrast, the clinical areas of the practice are clean, sharp and minimalistic with stainless steel bench tops and bleached wood veneering to provide a consistent thread back to the overall natural feel.

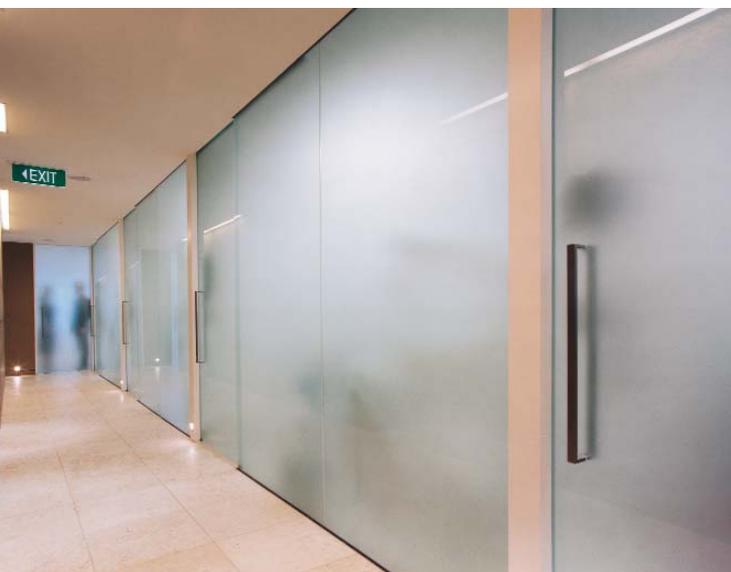




The architects sourced all the natural materials that include solid timbers, fossil stone floor tiles, screen-printed fabrics, hand-made Lokta paper and river reeds impregnated into perspex, all of which combine to provide warmth and texture, whereas the man-made materials - stainless steel, sandblasted glass, white vinyl, back-painted glass and a light coloured paint scheme - have been used to emphasise cleanliness.

A water wall is the focus as you enter and approach a back-lit reception desk of reeds suspended in resin. A dramatic back wall to reception has the surgery name in stainless steel letters raised off the richly stained adzed panels. Smooth fossilstone covers the floors in the reception and hallway with hand-made paper covering the walls.





## Summary

### The Practice

Principals	Dr Michael Danesh-Meyer
Type of Practice	Periodontic and Oral Hygiene
Location	Auckland, New Zealand
Size	300 square metres
No of chairs	7

### The Team

Design	Martin Hughes Architects & Design
Senior Designer	Clark Pritchard
Construction and Joinery	Shears and Mak
Project Manager	Michael Danesh-Meyer/Clark Pritchard
Dental Installers	Dentalecra/Jeff Stevens

### Equipment

Units	KaVo Primus 1058, KaVo Systemica, KaVo Promatica
X-Ray	Gendex, Ardex, DeGotzen and Belmont with Soredex Cranextome OPG
Autoclave	Sirona Siroclave B and Midmark M9
Compressor	2 x Cattani K300
Suction	Metasys ZA5
Software	Oasis Enterprise Edition (15 terminals)

Sandblasted glass ceiling to floor partitions give a hint of activity inside the surgeries whilst providing the patients with privacy. Recessed coved lighting illuminates the hallway with halogens indicating the adzed doorways and small stair lights at ground level marking each surgery. Dimmable lights and fluorescent lighting below the surgery cabinetry allow a soft wash of light onto and across the surgery floors. Flat screen TVs are mounted on the dental chairs for patient consultations, presentations and DVD movies. Recessed ceiling speakers throughout the practice provide ambience.

“We were initially motivated to move from our old practice a few doors down because we had run out of space. The new practice, however, has delivered much more than room to move. It is an ideal environment practise and makes our working lives a lot easier.

“It helps that we took at least a year to plan and think everything through. We took everything into consideration and took our time. You have to work through all the details and consider the mechanics and logistics of it all. We looked at how we did things in our existing practice and how they could be done simpler and more efficiently given a clean slate. We considered everything

from how instruments flow through the sterilization areas to how patient traffic flows through the practice. We looked at other practices and talked to other dentists and in the end, we covered all the bases.

“We moved in in May and six months on, we wouldn’t change a thing. Everything works well, the patients and staff love it and the three areas of the business are functioning successfully. Who could ask for more.”