



Living the dental dream

When your commute to the office is a short walk downstairs, you know you're living the dream.

Dr Ajay Kapadia had an interest in the medical field from a young age and wanted to do something that had the potential to benefit those around him. Dentistry was a natural choice, providing the perfect blend of patient care and "hands-on" experience.

After almost a decade operating in older practices, the time was finally right for him to create a working environment that was uniquely his own.

"Developing my own practice was something I always wanted to do," Dr Kapadia said. "Early on in my career, I had thought that I may take over a developed practice, but as time passed, I realised that if I had the opportunity to develop my own practice, I could have the ideal environment for myself, my staff and my patients."

Dr Kapadia had been operating from a practice in Ashwood, Victoria when the opportunity arose to purchase a corner block nearby with great street exposure and the potential for ample car parking space. Following a considered assessment of the site, he made the decision to purchase and began implementing plans for the development of his new practice.

In the early stages of the project, Dr Kapadia spoke with a local architect and another dental design company, but the responses he received from his initial enquiries were disappointing. By contrast, Medifit were prompt with their follow-up and had some great ideas.

Dr Kapadia's first introduction to Medifit took place at a trade show six years ago. Having followed the company's work over a number of years, he had

some knowledge of the type of projects the company was known for. The experience and personal approach offered by Medifit, particularly Managing Director Sam Koranis, provided a point of difference and the Medifit team were engaged for the project.

From the very first meetings, it was clear to Medifit that Dr Kapadia had a distinct vision for his new practice. The plan was to build a structure that would house the practice downstairs, whilst providing a stylish residence on the first floor.

He wanted the practice to be an architecturally attractive, environmentally friendly and welcoming building. It needed to be operationally efficient, easy to navigate and spacious. It also needed to allow for the provision of a high standard of dentistry in surroundings comfortable for staff and patients.



Above: 3D rendering developed in the design phase.

Starting with what is effectively a blank slate can be a daunting prospect. Through a series of meetings and conversations, Dr Kapadia was taken through the Medifit design process. This process distilled his ideas and thoughts about the look and feel, the desired functionality and the future plans for the proposed practice into design concepts and working drawings. The dream practice that had only existed in Dr Kapadia mind began to take form.

“It was a pleasure to deal with a client who had such a definitive vision for his practice, both from an architectural and interior design perspective,” Mr Koranis said. “Medifit’s design and architectural teams were able to turn this vision into a practical reality.”

The Medifit architectural team produced several sketch plans for discussion. These were refined into architectural concepts and presented to council for the necessary approvals.

Once the required council approvals were obtained, the project lifecycle from the start of construction to practical completion was just over 5 months. Medifit’s experienced network of trades, project managers and contract administration team worked seamlessly on site and behind the scenes to deliver the project on time and within budget. The resulting structure is an impressive architectural creation that delivers on all of the desired objectives.



From the exterior, the building offers compelling and distinct elevations from all four sides. A sweeping curved wall on the first floor is glazed in full height viridian glass, providing natural light while offering privacy for the occupants. Subtle tones of blue and grey are contrasted with vibrant flashes of sun-kissed orange trims.

Coloured glass is used extensively in the exterior, lending a unique architectural quality and visual signature to the structure. A dramatic canopy shelters and protects the balcony while raking up towards the sky in a bold statement.

At ground level, the front entrance of the building welcomes patients with a glazed doorway framed in orange, leading through to the reception and waiting areas. Rich, dark, earthy hues give the space a cosy atmosphere without creating a feeling of enclosure. The waiting area seats 12 patients in comfort.



Summary

The Practice

Principal	Dr Ajay Kapadia
The Practice	Cambridge Dental
Type of Practice	General
Location	Ashwood, Melbourne, Victoria
Size	203 square metres
No of chairs	5

The Team

Design	Medifit
Construction	Medifit
Joinery	Medifit

Equipment

Units	Anthos R7
Sterilisation	Statim
X Ray	Progeny
Compressor	Cattani K300
Suction	Cattani TurboSmart
Software	Oasis

The reception desk echoes the curves in the flooring inlays, leading patients down the walkway to the treatment rooms. The wall colours down the hallway in burgundy and neutral greys offer visual stimulation while the numbered white doorways identify the rooms beyond.

Moving into the surgeries and treatment rooms, the walls are coloured in a warm grey with cabinetry a striking medicinal white. The surgeries are purposefully light to both highlight the natural light and provide a clean, modern aesthetic. The Corian counter tops give an attractive, easy care finish that is both extremely hard-wearing and easy to clean and maintain.

The surgeries have been expertly space planned to allow for current state-of-the-art equipment, with provision for future expansion as new technologies are introduced and adopted in dentistry. The working styles and ergonomic requirements of each practitioner have also been taken into account in the positioning of chairs and cabinetry to provide the most productive and comfortable working environment possible.

The first floor is a completely self-contained domestic residence, providing a residence for the doctor's young family with stunning views from the signature balcony and just enough separation to keep home and work distinct.

The benefits to Dr Kapadia and his staff are clear. "The staff are much happier in their new surroundings, which has consequently resulted in an increase in their motivation and morale," he said.

"Throughout the project, Medifit were always personable and friendly. We were welcome to visit the site at any stage of the

construction and the foreman was always willing to answer any questions or concerns we had. I found the entire Medifit team professional and accommodating. I have no hesitation in recommending Medifit to anyone looking to build a practice."

"Dr Kapadia's project is a standout for Medifit," Mr Koranis said, "not only as a stunning architecturally-designed residence and practice combination, but as an example of the effectiveness of our design and architectural processes and our willingness to work collaboratively with our clients for the best results."

