



## Creating the essence of a smile

**N**ews of the minerals boom in Western Australia is everywhere and while iron ore is in demand, no one knows better than a dentist just how much the price of gold has equally skyrocketed. The goldfields of Kalgoorlie have become rejuvenated and the city of over 30,000 people is the perfect place for a young dentist to set-up shop.

Dr Tony Leung, an enthusiastic 27-year-old who graduated in 2002 from UWA, had a vision to open his own dental practice in the thriving gold mining town. However, finding a design and construction company to help him realise the vision proved a challenge.

“When I first started planning the surgery, I asked all my contacts in the business about who was available to design it and build it,” Dr Leung said. “Inevitably all of them named the same few stock standard dental fit-out companies as well as Medifit. They all

mentioned that Medifit does exceptional work but that they may be slightly more expensive. This initially instilled some cynicism about them in my mind.

“Given the location of the practice, however, I found that a lot of people weren’t keen on the job. One told me from the outset that they weren’t interested while another ‘strung me along’, feeding me rudimentary designs that I could have done myself.

“This dragged on for about a month until I finally approached Sam Koranis from Medifit. I’ve read about their other fit-outs across the country and was very impressed with the quality of their designs. At that stage, I was still cynical but I was running out of time and patience so I commissioned them for the design process.

“Mark Evangelisti, Medifit’s National Projects Manager, flew out to Kalgoorlie for the consultation and presentation of their previous and current projects. I was

most impressed with the detail and quality of the designs and knew that despite the small price premium, I was going to receive exactly what I wanted.

“There was no comparison in the level of professionalism and detail Medifit presented to me from the technical drawings of the design to the 3D conceptualisation that really ‘hit home’ and allowed me to visualise the final product.

“A couple of weeks later, I had my first meeting with the Medifit designers. I told them that I wanted to create a surgery that is warm, modern and vibrant, easy on the eye as well as comfortable and practical. I also wanted a bit of the ‘wow’ factor of a nice modern dental surgery even in the midst of all the dust and dirt in an outback mining town.”

Dr Leung had already selected a tenancy, ideally located on busy Brookman Street and surrounded by existing established businesses.



“Once we met Tony and saw a glimpse of his vivacious personality, we immediately knew the direction to take,” said Medifit’s design team. “Tony’s personality is dynamic, his style cosmopolitan and very ‘now’. Throughout the design process and discussions I felt it was important to create an environment that reflected this, introducing a touch of the city to the red dust of Kalgoorlie.”

Tony’s design brief included two surgeries; sterilisation area; separate laboratory for a consultant; office; staff room and amenities; plant room; administration area; reception and waiting area; and a few “bling” elements including a plasma screen and contemporary stylish furniture.

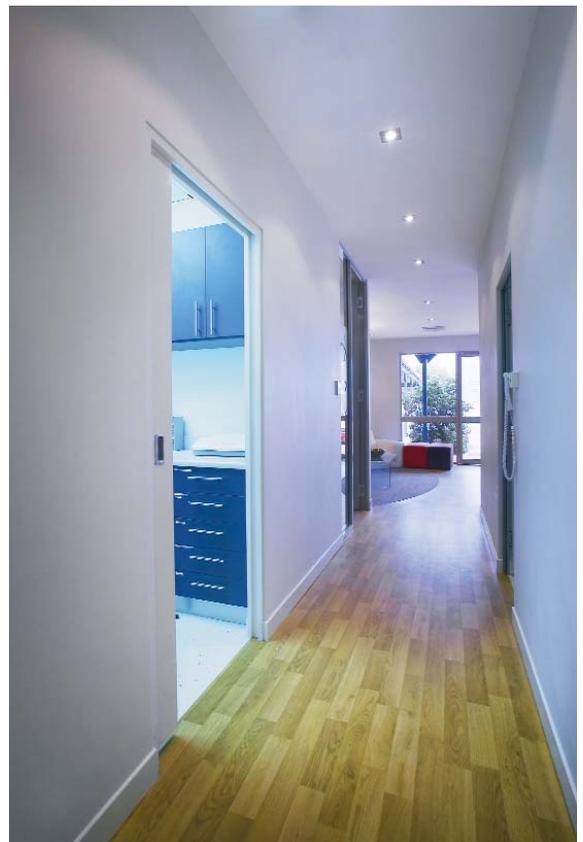
The existing building - a narrow rectangular shape with a maximum width of 6.5m - defined the general layout of the practice. With 98 square metres to play with and incorporating all of Tony’s requirements, the best design layout proved to have a strong linear look.

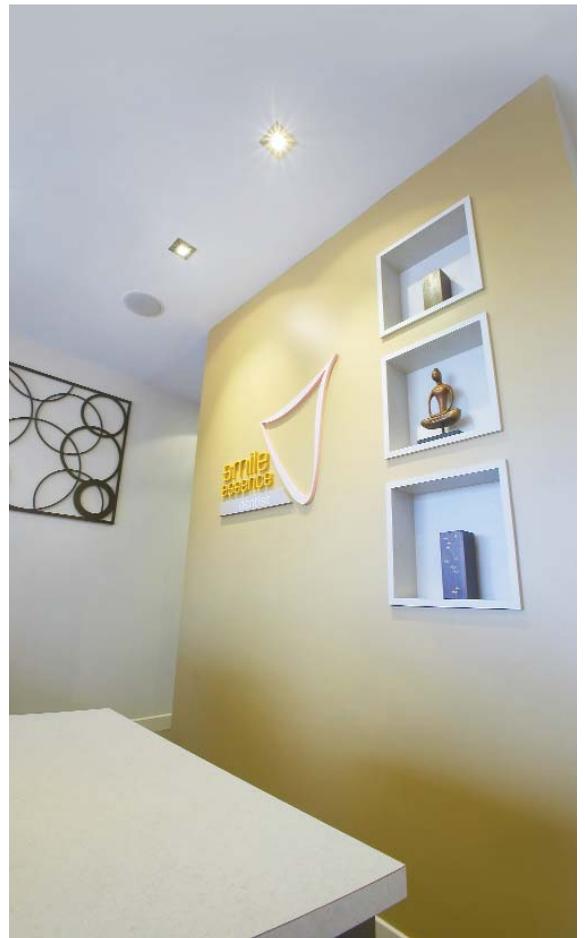
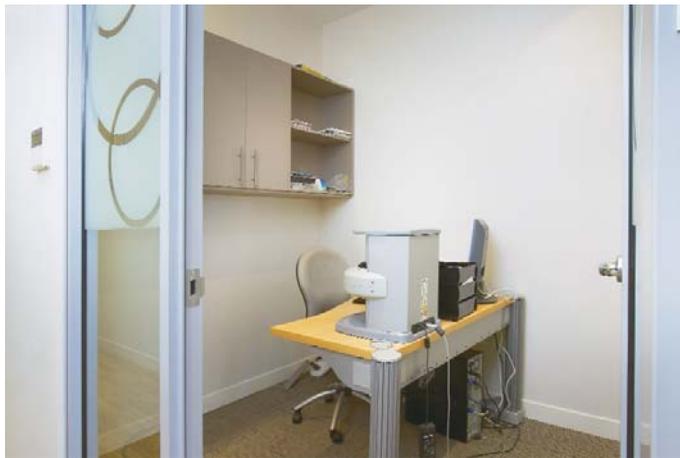
To soften the interior appearance, an optical illusion designed to create a fluid environment was introduced through the creative use of a gentle sweeping reception counter with a modern and contemporary laminated negative detail fascia capped with white Corian.

The subtle change in floor finishes from a warm Polyflor timber look vinyl to a gentle curved modular carpet tile from Interface created the definition and warmth required to break up the linear and solid layout of the dental practice.

The theme of curves through joinery, floor finishes and round feature pendants created the concept for a circular feature panel. A custom-designed feature artwork made from aluminium was designed specifically for Tony’s reception area to bring together a complete design concept.

The finishes and materials used throughout the design created a warm and relaxing atmosphere; soft natural tones of brown, soft





creams and coffee colours helped to create that relaxing lounge feel Tony was seeking.

A cluster of ottomans within the waiting area add an element of fun, with the obligatory red ottoman paying homage to the red dust of Kalgoorlie meeting the contemporary colours of the city.

A low line entertainment unit, plasma screen, white reconstituted leather sofa and client supplied chairs all worked together to create a dynamic and modern dental practice.

The Lab area was custom designed to suit the workflow and equipment of Tony's lab technician, methodical detail and information was obtained from the technician before design commenced. The lab is located at the back of the surgery to allow the technician to make as much noise as she likes and also to have a rear exit door so she doesn't have to walk through the entire surgery for entry and exit.



## Summary

### The Practice

Principal	Dr Tony Leung
Type of Practice	General
Location	Kalgoorlie, Western Australia
Size	98 square metres
No of chairs	2

### The Team

Design	Medifit
Senior Designer	Geoffrey Raphael
Construction & Joinery	Medifit
Project Manager	Medifit - Mark Evangelisti

### Equipment

Dental Units	Planmeca Compact-i and Compact-a
X-Ray	Planmeca Intra x-ray units with Scan-X Intraoral digital x-ray system
Autoclaves	Mocom Millennium B+
Compressor	Cattani K200
Suction	Cattani Turbo Smart
Software	Dental-4-Windows Practice Management

The surgeries are a generous size, with white Corian benchtops and soft natural wood tones to the cabinets creating continuity between the timber vinyl floors used throughout the surgeries.

Generous staff amenities are supported with a functional kitchen. This staff area is located towards the back of the practice to allow staff to feel as though they are away from the hustle and bustle of the practice. For a moment the staff may think they are in a trendy city café with bench seating and modern stools.

“At the end of the day, Medifit did wonders,” Dr Leung said. The surgery design delivered on what I really wanted in the dream practice and after seeing that, I commissioned Medifit to build it as well based on their project management ability and Mark’s expertise in building.”

“I remember it as if it were only yesterday. It was mid-November and Tony comes right out with it. ‘You can only have the job if you finish it by Christmas’,” explains Mr Evangelisti. “My head was saying no - but the challenge was too great to pass up! I asked him to give me half an hour and that I

would get right back to him with an answer. After the crucial confirmations from the rest of our WA team, I called Tony back and told him it was time to put his money where his mouth is; sign up and get ready to take possession in 6 weeks time!”

“On project completion, my expectations were met,” Dr Leung said. “The construction really only took 4 weeks as promised by Mark and he had trades from Perth and Kalgoorlie working 7 days a week till the wee hours of the morning to meet the Christmas deadline. I owe a great deal of thanks to the entire Medifit team.”

