



Beyond Smiles Dentistry

Dentistry demands a great deal of analytical, technical and creative skills. Combining the latest in dental techniques with strong creative thinking allows dentists to provide innovative and unique solutions to patient care. As a child, Richard Thean grew up with a passion for disassembling household items to create interesting new toys. After being exposed to the medical profession at an early age, the art of dentistry was a natural calling.

Graduating from the University of Melbourne in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science with First Class Honours and a Bachelor of Dental Science, Dr Richard Thean began his dental career working in private practice in regional and metropolitan Melbourne. In 2004, the opportunity arose to purchase an existing dental surgery in

Mordialloc. Inspiringly named The Mordialloc Dental Surgery, the premises had been operating as a dental surgery at the location for the last 90 years.

Dr Thean believes that dentistry can do much more than just create a smile for someone. It is able to effect changes which can transform the person from within. With this in mind, he renamed the practice to Beyond Smiles Dentistry. In 90 years as a dental surgery, the premises had been through many transformations, both minor and major. After implementing minor functional and cosmetic changes in the first few years at his new practice, Dr Thean decided the time was right to transform the practice into a modern, contemporary dental practice that truly reflected his skills and vision.

Having already undertaken two previous 'minor' renovations to the surgery, Dr Thean was acutely aware of the many challenges involved in the planning, delivery and scheduling of such a project and decided to engage a professional dental fit out specialist company for this major project. After investigating the options available in the dental design and construction arena, he approached Medifit in late 2009.

There were several key requirements for the new surgery. Dr Thean wanted the new practice to look modern, warm and inviting for his patients and staff whilst providing a practical and efficient working environment that enhanced the way the practice operated. In addition, there were strict budget and timeframe



constraints. The nature of the refurbishment meant that it was impractical to continue operating while the renovations took place and the entire job had to be completed within 6 weeks.

Once the initial design concepts were approved, Sam Koranis and Michael Bleechmore from Medifit visited the site and walked through the design with Dr Thean room by room and part by part to verify the requirements of the space and the design intent.

Improving the workflow of the surgery was one of the major drivers of the renovation. This was achieved by optimising and realigning the available space to provide a better flow for both patients and staff. The new design incorporated 4 surgeries, significantly increasing the available treatment area. Particular emphasis was given to the areas used in the day to day operation, the sterilisation room, the surgeries and the lab. Effective space planning has made these areas more efficient, resulting in an improved working environment.

Dedicated storage systems provide plenty of space for equipment and filing resulting in a clean and uncluttered working environment and giving the practice a more professional outlook. The design also made the waiting and reception areas much more comfortable, aesthetically pleasing and inviting.

The overall colour scheme chosen was a combination of warm neutrals to provide a feeling of lightness and space with accents of darker browns and splashes of maroon adding contrast and structure.



With such a tight timeframe, efficient management and coordination of this project was crucial to its success. The project window was scheduled to coincide with Dr Thean's holidays and the Medifit team pulled out all the stops to ensure the surgery was ready to open upon his return, completing the fitout in just over 4 weeks, ready for equipment installation. The dental equipment arrived and was installed in the final week, on schedule for the grand re opening.

"We finished work on Friday and Medifit commenced the planned demolition, etc, on the following Monday. They arrived like the perfect storm and within hours I could not recognize the interior of my surgery anymore," Dr Thean said.

"The site managers were very professional, obliging and understanding in working through any small issues which arose. They were careful and meticulous in organizing the trades to ensure that everything happened like clockwork as we were on a highly condensed schedule.



Summary

The Practice

Principal:	Dr Richard Thean
The Practice:	Beyond Smiles Dentistry
Type of Practice:	General
Location:	Mordialloc, Victoria
Size:	132 square metres
No of dental chairs:	4

The Team

Design	Medifit
Construction	Medifit

Equipment

Units:	A-dec 500 and A-dec Radius
Sterilisation:	Melag Vacuklav 44B, Lisa 17B
X Ray:	Planmeca Intra and Kodak 2100 and 2200
Compressor:	Cattani K300
Suction:	Cattani TurboSmart B
Software	Oasis



“As with all renovation projects it is stressful, not knowing if you have addressed all the possible design and practicality issues. Medifit were very patient in working through multiple designs based on our requirements and budget.

“The experience of Medifit’s management and their tradesmen during the construction and fit out meant that anything that I did not consider or forgot, they had already factored into the equation. They were very professional, organised, efficient and very accommodating when minor changes were required. This greatly reduced the stress level.

“Our patients and staff are really enjoying the new practice. Working out of the newly renovated surgery has been great, the modernization of the interior makes it feel much nicer and more comfortable due to the improved layout of the patient area and the extra surgeries.

“To be able to operate and treat patients as scheduled after closure of exactly 6 weeks was nothing short of a miracle performed by Medifit.”

