



Amazing results are possible in limited space

After running her busy city practice in the heart of Sydney since purchasing it 24 years ago, Dr Gillian Miller decided it was time for a facelift.

“I’ve been in the present location for the last 21 years and was well overdue for a new fitout and updated equipment,” Dr Miller explained.

“Not much has changed since I started here and with only 45 square metres to work with, I was less than optimistic about what could be achieved in such a small area.

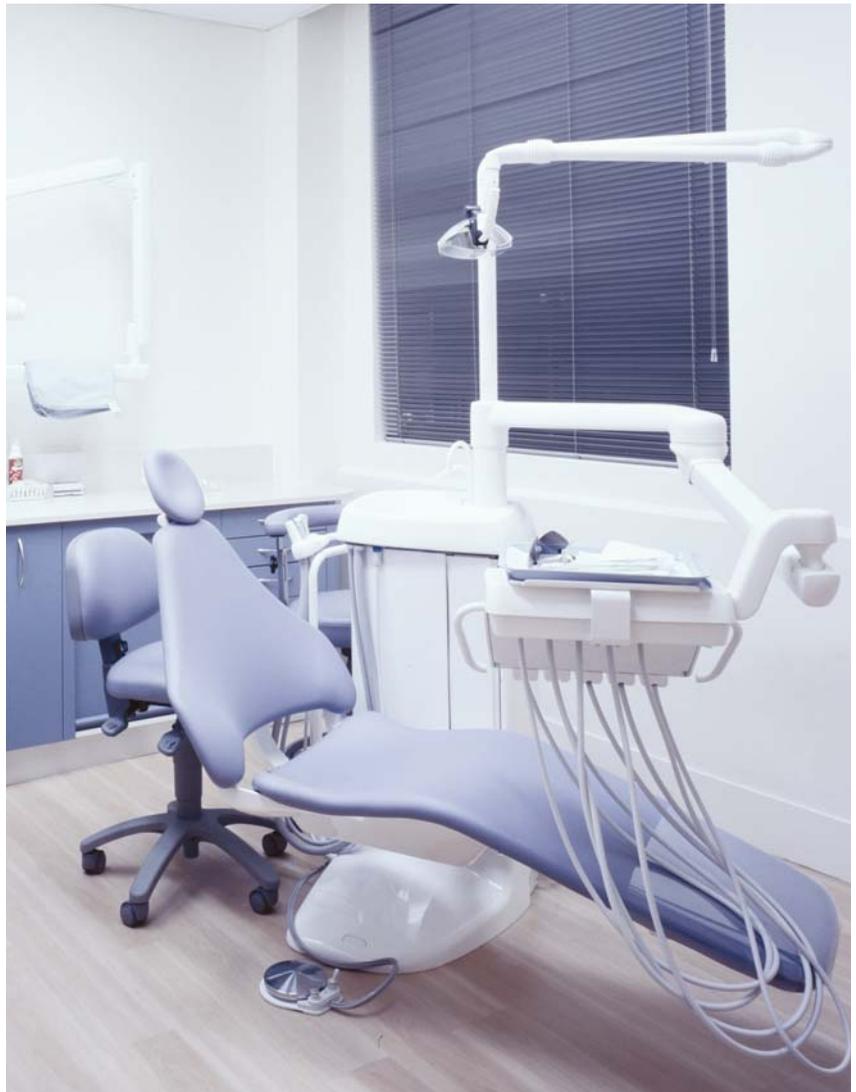
“My brief to the three designers I initially approached was really a wishlist and I was not sure if I could fit all of it comfortably in. We wanted to achieve two operatories on the window sides of the building, allowing as much natural light as possible to flood the rooms and to provide space for another dentist, a sterilization room between the two operatories, a refresh area, a kitchenette, plant room, a waiting room for four or five people and a combined reception and practice management area.

“I finally chose Medifit above the other designers based on their first impression plan and because of their professional approach. They got back to me with a plan within a very short time frame and the plan met all of our requirements and more,” Dr Miller said.

“When we met Dr Miller and inspected the site of her existing practice, I was immediately consumed by the challenge of meeting all the requirements she put before us,” said Geoff Raphael, Medifit Design Director. “Our design team cleverly used a simple curved wall to give a perception of a passage to screen the entry to the operatories and sterilization room and to also allow for the creation of a refresh area behind. To achieve this, all the solid non-structural masonry walls were demolished.

“Often the most simple solution is the best and the design mustn’t override the real business requirements of the individual practice,” Mr Raphael said.

The two operatories have been designed utilizing an L-shaped configuration of cabinetry to maximize the space available. The cabinetry is complete with Du Pont Corian benchtops and the latest in Medifit’s modular base units arranged to suit



the particular operations of the practice.

Dr Miller chose to install Planmeca Compact chairs and equipment supplied by Henry Schein Regional after seeing the units in the showroom. “With its innovative design combined with extreme comfort and easy of use, I knew it would be perfect,” she said.

The plant room has been cleverly placed alongside a duct riser of the building to allow for a roof-mounted compressor.

The sterilization area seems very roomy considering the space constraints and has a separate kitchenette alongside, cleverly designed not to compromise the M.A.D.A.

cross infection control parameters of the sterilization room.

The curved wall creates a pseudo passage which screens the waiting area from the operatories and allows for a subtle, but noticeable on exit, refresh station which is out of view from waiting clients. The curved wall also incorporates the structural column making use of it rather than it being a hindrance and allows for a storage cupboard to be built alongside.

The waiting area has a spacious feel due to the curved wall which allows the clients’ eyes to include the pseudo passage as part of this space without direct



view into any of the rooms beyond. “The site presented problems for the Medifit Projects Team”, said Sam Aquilina, Medifit’s General Manager – Projects, East Coast. “The practice was on the 7th floor in a building in Macquarie Street with limited parking in the area. The lift was also breaking down on a regular basis and was small in size which meant all equipment and furniture had to be made to fit the lift and the entry door and passage to the premises.

“Due to the age of the building, only minimal floor chasing could be achieved to create the falls required for the plumbing, air and suction. Core hole drilling was not permitted by the Body Corporate. The practice was also surrounded by other tenants which meant that all demolition and noisy works could only be conducted after hours.”

Dr Miller was overwhelmingly impressed by the professionalism of Medifit and the results achieved.

“Medifit not only developed an innovative design but one that was also highly functional and stood out from the other designs, giving me more than I thought possible. They were also very thorough with their costings and at anticipating trouble areas at the onset and giving excellent estimates, which led to no nasty

shocks at the end. My accountant is very impressed with the detail of the costings of the different areas covered in the quote and the paperwork provided for tax purposes.

“All communications were very precise and clear and they managed to keep within my original budget range. Although based in Perth, I always felt that I had complete access to their services and any changes to the original design and specification were dealt with promptly and effectively. Special thanks to Vanessa of the design team

whose professionalism and patience in accommodating my numerous colour changes and minor plan alterations will always be appreciated.”

According to Dr Miller, the feedback from patients has been phenomenal and their first reaction is how spacious and light the whole area is, and how much bigger it all seems.

“Old patients are amazed at the transformation and my new associate and myself are already noticing an increase in new referrals.

“I highly recommend anyone considering a practice design and refit to discuss their needs with Medifit as I have found them to be a truly professional and innovative team at all stages. Nothing was ever too much trouble for the Medifit team.”

