



Compact design benefits from a professional touch

Dr Stephen McCallum bought the Ocean Reef Dental Surgery several years ago and after recently building a new home, decided it was time to bring his work place up to date and functioning to its full capacity.

“After being closely involved with the building of my house, I new I didn’t want to attempt a complicated dental fitout without professional help,” Dr McCallum said.

Ocean Reef, a northern coastal suburb of Perth, Western Australia has had a noticeable change in demographic with the expansion of the city and the love of living by the sea. Dr McCallum saw the need for more cosmetic procedures for his practice and realized that the look of the surgery was very important in attracting new patients requiring these procedures. He decided to contact Medifit, a national design and construct company as they came highly recommended to him by various dental suppliers.



Dr McCallum required two treatment rooms together with an easily accessible sterilizing area (previously in joint use with the staff room!). Always conscious of how anxious patients may become, he saw the need for a separate recovery room and it was also important that the staff have an area away from reception and treatment rooms. As is the norm, storage space is essential as well as display space for various oral hygiene products. He also required a separate office.

Apart from these requirements, it was clear that the reception area was not functioning properly and the current toilet facilities needed to be upgraded and expanded to allow for disabled access.

“The first thing I noticed when walking into Ocean Reef Dental Surgery was the fish tank and I thought, ‘I hope Dr McCallum doesn’t want to keep that - fish tanks have been done to death!’,” said Medifit designer Natasha Connor. “However, it was the one element, which Dr McCallum

requested be retained as the ‘patients seem to love it’. So we embraced the idea and decided to incorporate it into the design. In fact, it developed into being the focal point and inspiration for the whole space.”

“It was obvious that it would be difficult to fit all my requirements into a confined space of only 74sqm,” Dr McCallum said. “However, Medifit’s design team accomplished the ideal layout with minimal alterations to the first design they showed me which had impressed me initially. The only change we made was to combine the staff area and the recovery room.”

The reception area was swapped with the waiting area and the infamous fish tank was used as a dividing wall with visual access from both this space and surgery one. A truncated corner of surgery one gave the perfect opportunity to integrate a glass display cabinet facing the entry for oral hygiene products, but accessible from the surgery. Below this display is space to dispose of cups for the water cooler together with the audio system, keeping the clean, modern lines in place and uncluttered.

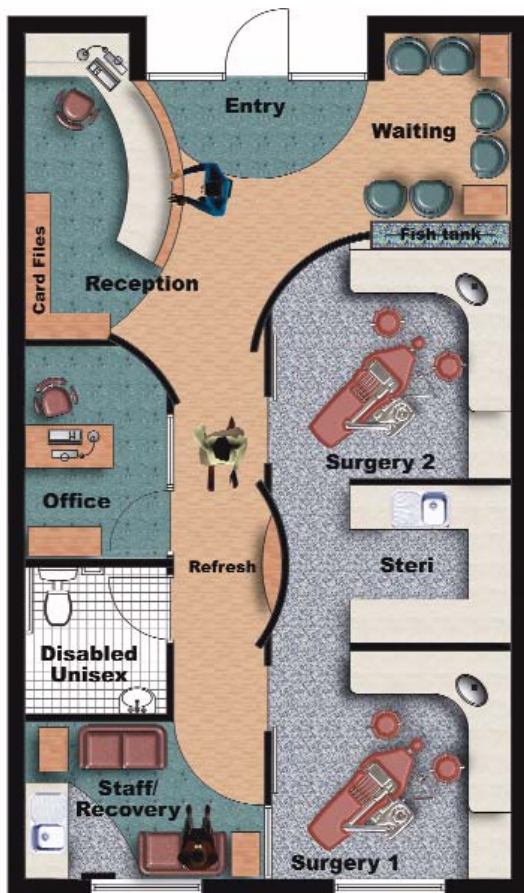
By reducing the size of the existing treatment rooms and with the inclusion of the superbly compact Fimet chair, Medifit were able to incorporate a new space between the rooms dedicated for the sterilisation area.

“We worked closely with Jeff Clohessey from Fimet Australia to ensure all the equipment was in the correct location with sufficient workspace,” Ms Connor said. “Maintaining Dr McCallum’s preference for an L-shaped cabinet configuration maximized the space together with storage space in overhead cupboards. We also incorporated a refresh area between the treatment rooms into the central corridor.”

“I had done some sketches of the space prior to talking to the Medifit design team which I was pretty proud of,” Dr McCallum said. “I was dubious of a designer coming up with something better; after all



SURGERY DESIGN



Dr Steve McCallum 

they have not worked in our environment. Well I ate my words, or thoughts, on that one. The efficiencies that have been created will contribute enormously towards a smooth running professional dental practice, as well as showing our clients what our dentistry is all about from the moment they enter the reception environment. These things I could not have achieved.”

The fit out process was planned and completed by Medifit under the charge of Medifit Projects Director, John Gullotto.

“We were able to minimize the downtime to Dr McCallum with some careful planning and setting out to ensure a smooth sequence of trades.” Mr Gullotto said. “Medifit has spent three years continually improving and refining its on-site systems. The building game is anything from perfect. What you’re striving for is to get 20-30 trades people and dental equipment technicians/suppliers to work in a very small space over a very short period of time and all communicating through us smoothly and efficiently and all finishing their own work on time and to our standards, not theirs. That is the synergy we strive for and we came very close to achieving a perfect result on Dr McCallum’s project.”

The fit out was commenced in April and took approximately six weeks from start to finish.

“During the first half of the fitout, I was on a fishing holiday with my family and friends and totally trusted Medifit to do what they know best,” Dr McCallum said. “On my return, I was very impressed watching the smooth flow of trades on the project. They were all courteous and considerate and it all seemed to happen very smoothly. One look at John Gullotto a week prior to finishing, however, and I knew it was not as easy as he made it look.

“We have been practising in the new rooms now for five months and wow! I wish I’d done this years ago,” Dr McCallum said. “The compact and modern streamline design of the Fimet equipment looks impressive and the continental style whip arm is excellent. There is absolutely no drag on the handpieces and the arms have good reach and flexibility. One of the best cleanup features is that the entire dentist’s module can swing over the top of the patient to the assistant’s side. When this is done before the patient’s final rinse, cleanup procedures can commence immediately without the assistant having to move from her side of the surgery. This facilitates easy exit and entry of the patient, totally unhampered by equipment.

“Patient’s love the care and attention we have spent on them, our team is energized and excited to be here, and I am excited to come to work and proud that our rooms are now a reflection of our professional practice.”