



Solution for specialist practice right next door

By Joseph Allbeury

Husband and wife team, specialist orthodontists Igor Lavrin and Sarah Lawrence, are the proud owners of a brand new practice in the heart of Melbourne's CBD. After renting from a fellow orthodontist's city practice for several years, they finally found the ideal premises to relocate to and it happened to be right next door.

"We'd been sharing premises with another orthodontist for a few years in Collins Street, Melbourne," Dr Lavrin said. "He had both a city practice and a suburban practice as do we. So when he was in the suburbs, we used his rooms in the city to see our patients.

"The arrangement worked well for some time but we eventually felt we needed our own space to give us greater

flexibility in the way we worked and how we scheduled our time. We're young and vibrant and we also wanted something funky that reflected our own style.

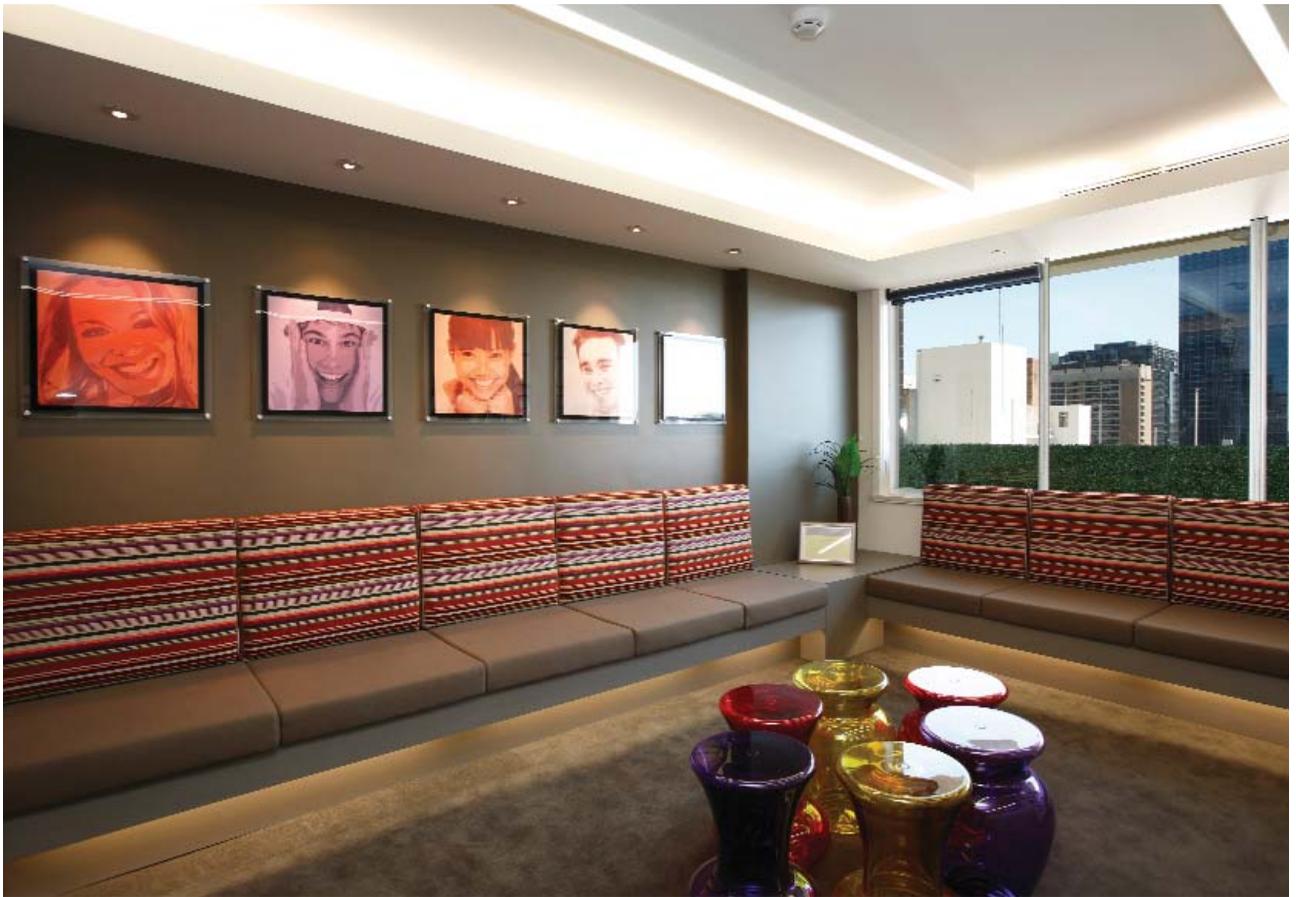
"Fortunately for us, the solution was close at hand. The owner of the suite next door approached us to say he was going to be selling it and did we want to buy? This was the solution we'd been looking for; we wouldn't even need to change our stationery!"

Drs Lavrin and Lawrence then went in search of help to ensure the 130m² space accommodated all their requirements.

"We went looking for help with the design of the new premises," Dr Lavrin said. "We'd seen articles written about Levitch Design Associate's work in *Australasian Dental Practice* and were

impressed with what they had done in the past. We also visited some practices that they'd designed. I liked the fact that they knew dentistry and how orthodontists work. With a regular architect, you have to explain so much to them about dentistry and specific dental workplace needs but with LDA there was no learning curve. With their knowledge, they could actually add value."

Drs Lavrin and Lawrence had firm ideas about their needs and had also compiled photos from magazines on dentistry and general design to show the look and feel they were after. These, together with the completed comprehensive questionnaire LDA uses as an insight into their clients' specific needs, were all incorporated into the final design.



“Being in the city, we have limited space and trying to fit everything in was difficult, but LDA managed with only a couple of compromises,” he said. “One was that there is no staff bathroom and the other is that the staff room is small. Having used it now, a lot of staff go out to the park or to Collins Place Food Court next door for lunch so it has not been an issue.”

The new practice features three chairs in a semi-private area with moving screens and a fourth chair is located in a private room used for records and de-banding. A fifth chair is located in the consult room but it is not plumbed for air, water or suction.



The plan also includes reception; an admin area; a private office; sterilisation area; staff room; bathroom; a glass-encased consult room; toothbrushing areas at the front door and in the clinical area; a small area for patient education where DVDs on “how to care for your braces” are screened; plus an area to take intraoral and extraoral photos. There’s a radiographer in the same building who bulk bills so patients are referred there for their x-rays.

“We went back and forth on the design with LDA and they worked with us to get it right,” Dr Lavrin said. “The basic design they came up with first is pretty much the one we went with after some modifications.





Summary

The Practice

Principals	Drs Igor Lavrin and Sarah Lawrence
Type of Practice	Specialist orthodontic
Location	Melbourne, Victoria
Size	130 square metres
No of chairs	5

The Team

Design	Levitch Design Associates
Senior Designers	Victoria Stiles and Antony Poate
Construction	Dan Olle, DJO Constructions
Joinery	Park View Cabinets

Equipment

Dental Units	Belmont Clesta II and Pro 2 chairs with Forest wall-mounted delivery systems
Sterilisation	Aquaclave and Statim
Compressor	Cattani K200
Suction	Cattani Turbo Smart A
Software	Orthotrac

“We were initially concerned that they were Sydney-based and how that would turn out but it worked perfectly via some face to face meetings, phone calls and emails. It all came together easily and in a very efficient manner.

“LDA completed the design and we then gave the plans and specifications to the builder we’d used for our suburban practice. If there were any concerns, LDA were always available to clarify anything. I was impressed that LDA had a set fee for their work as opposed to some architects that work on a percentage of the cost of the project, hence they have a vested interest in increasing the costs of the project.”

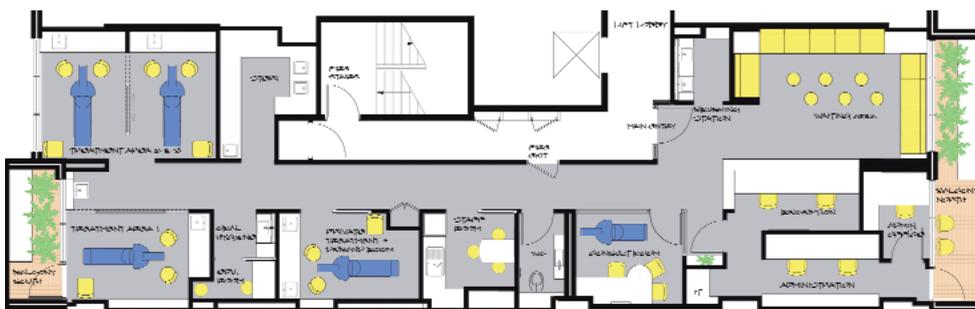
Dr Lavrin said that both their suburban practice in Templestowe and the new practice in Collins Street are now aligned with a sim-

ilar funky look and feel. The city practice is predominantly adult patients whereas the suburban practice mostly sees children.

“Our new practice both looks superb and is a beautiful premises to work in. The semi-private areas really do feel private without feeling enclosed. It’s a long narrow, space and the use of mirrors along the corridor makes it feel much wider than it is. Patients think it is much bigger than the old premises next door but it’s the exact same size. LDA managed to make it feel really spacious.

“We installed five new Belmont dental chairs and had these upholstered in silver which looks great. It wasn’t a stock colour so we had them re-covered.

“Importantly, the flow of the practice is well thought out,” Dr Lavrin said. “My wife, Sarah Lawrence, has returned



from maternity leave and is very impressed by how well it all works.

“Overall, the space really is a joy to work in and everyone is happy - doctors, staff, dental therapists and most importantly, our patients. All feedback has been very positive and we couldn’t ask for more.”