



New Perio Practice for Glen Iris

Finding the perfect site for your new practice can be difficult and in the case of specialist periodontist Andrei Locke, the search lasted for almost 3 years. Looking at all types of property, from residential to retail and office space, Dr Locke finally found the perfect site in the form of the old Festival Records recording studio in Glen Iris, Melbourne.

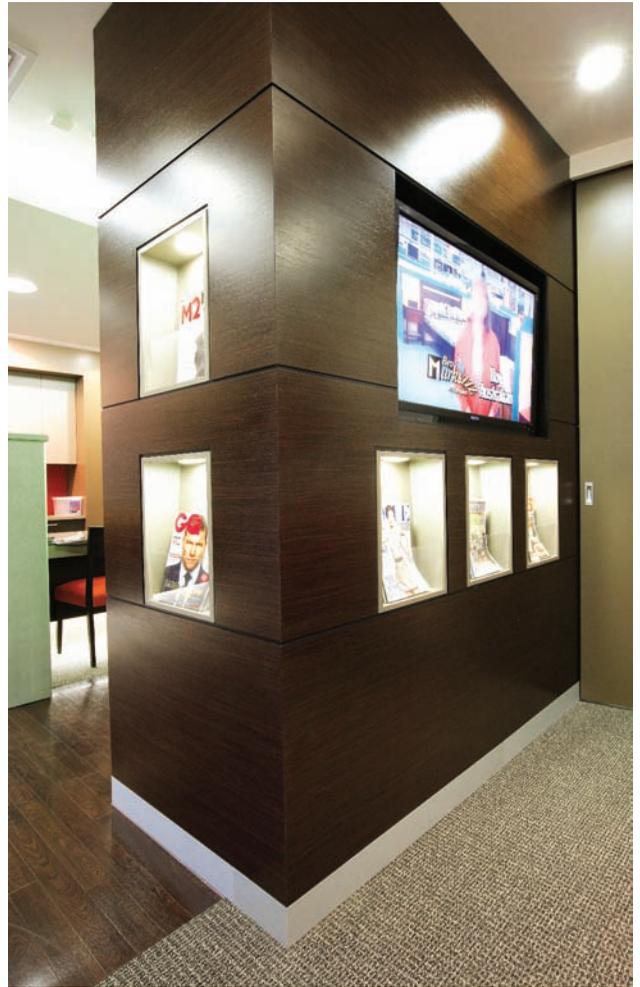
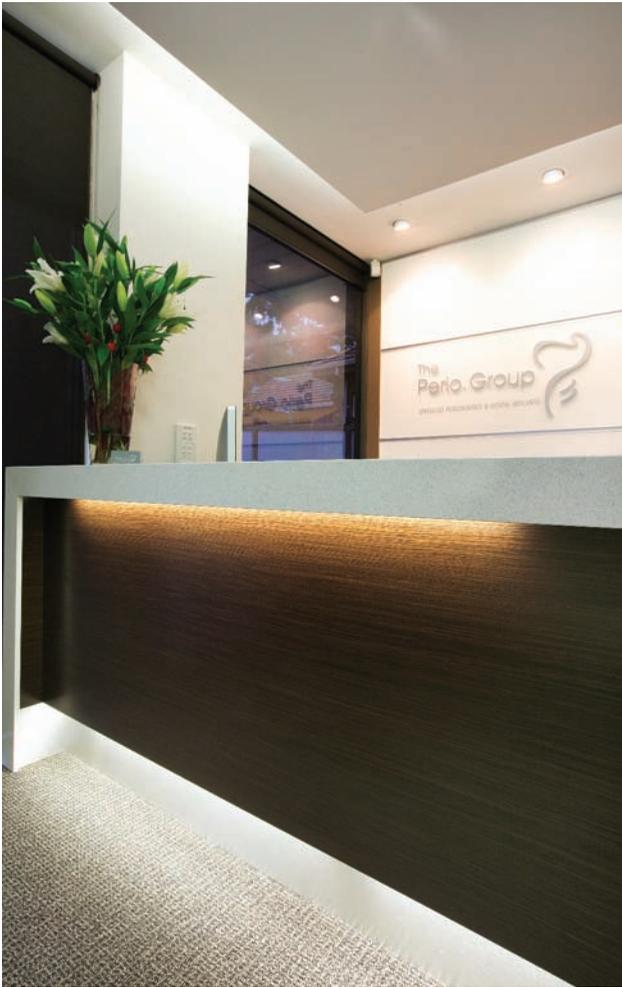
The site was close to home, commercially zoned 'Business 2' and included 10 car parking spaces - a big tick in its favour. An unusual shape, the building was an empty shell. This saved time and money in creating the fit-out and also assisted Dr Locke in visualizing how the space could be planned. The building includes windows running the length of the east, north

and north-west sides of the building, providing an abundance of natural light. The opportunity to acquire the space was too good to refuse so Dr Locke jumped on the chance in January 2008 to make this the home of The Perio Group.

Dr Locke had spent 9 years working with other dentists in their practices both rurally and in suburban Melbourne after completing his Bachelor of Dental Science with Honours in 1999 and during his Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry in 2002, his Masters of Dental Science (Periodontics) in 2004 and while becoming a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Dental Surgeons Specialty Stream in Periodontics in 2004 (all through Melbourne University). These years working with

others provided him with great experience and he enjoyed learning what he could from others. However it was the challenge of setting up something of his own that excited Dr Locke.

In planning the space of his new premises, Dr Locke had some clear ideas as to what he wanted to achieve in the surgery, however he also wanted to ensure that the design maximized the space whilst also meeting all regulations for healthcare facilities. He approached Levitch Design Associates (LDA) for their proven experience in healthcare design. The shape and size of the building meant some creative flair was required, but at the end of the process the design team was able to incorporate everything on Dr Locke's wish list.



The main consideration was to maximize the natural light and ensure all patient areas were facing windows. The surgeries line the north and north-west facing walls, with a consult room between each surgery to optimize patient flow throughout the practice. Following a clinical examination in the surgery, a discussion of the findings and treatment options can take place in the consult room which has parkland views and a more relaxed and less 'clinical' feel. This also frees up the surgeries to be readied for the next patient.

The practice has a clear delineation between public, private and clinical areas. The sterilization area is central within the clinical side of the practice with two offices, four surgeries, two consult rooms, a hygiene room and an OPG room.

The design also incorporates a large staff and meeting area behind reception and staff amenities including a change room and shower. "I wanted to provide a nice environment for staff and make use of the outlook to the surrounding park," Dr Locke said.





“The view to the car park and reception also allow them to keep an eye out ready to welcome arriving patients”.

New staff that have joined the team at The Perio Group have all been very complimentary of the layout, with a large back of house area that allows for future expansion.

The equipment used throughout the practice was chosen for both patient and practitioner comfort. The A-Dec 500 chairs have the facility of accommodating extra trays to place all the surgical instruments directly in front of the operator rather than on wheel-in trolleys, which allows for space savings. These trays can store out of the way while still being easily accessible. “Patients have also commented that the chairs are extremely comfortable,” Dr Locke said. The track mounted overhead lights also free up valuable space and enable either ergonomic seated or standing work positions.



Summary

The Practice

Principal	Dr Andrei Locke
Practice	The Perio Group
Type of Practice	Specialist periodontic
Location	Glen Iris, Melbourne, Victoria
Size	280 square metres
No of chairs	4

The Team

Design	Levitch Design Associates
Senior Designers	Antony Poate and Jeremy Edgehill
Construction	Levitch Design Associates
Project Manager	Liam O'Shea

Equipment

Dental Units	A-dec 500 with continental delivery
Sterilisation	Melag Vacuklav 44B w/reverse osmosis unit
X-Ray	Progeny Preva
Compressor	Cattani K400
Suction	Cattani Turbo Smart A
Software	MacPractice

Dr Locke incorporated roof mounted screens for his patients, allowing them to choose television shows or movies to watch and distract them from the clinical procedures to help them feel more comfortable during their visit. The screens can also be used for running patient education programs. The sound system used throughout the practice can also be controlled separately depending on the zone within the practice.

The Melag autoclaves used within the practice are connected to a reverse osmosis unit and are self-draining and loading, making them extremely low maintenance. The units maintain their chamber temperature which makes for quick cycles which Dr Locke has found is a great advantage of the unit.

Of the whole experience of setting up a new practice, Dr Locke is extremely pleased with the results. "It was tricky to get everything that I had on my wish list into the practice, maintain an optimum flow through the practice and also meet all statutory requirements, such as those set out for disabled access," he said. "We also had to go to and fro with some of the design to accommodate for the unusual shape of the building but all in all, I'm extremely pleased - the design and construction teams did a truly fantastic job".

The repeated surgery layout means that operators can walk into any room and reach for exactly what they need stored in the

same place each time which makes using multiple rooms a breeze. And the feedback from patients has been overwhelmingly positive.

"They love the new practice, and have commented it feels more comfortable and homely than clinical and sterile," Dr Locke said. "They love the leafy outlook and small touches like including the overhead television screens for them are definitely met with appreciation."

