

Bill Diebert Dental



## Diebert Dental opens new premises

**T**errigal is well-known as one of the premier surfing beaches on the NSW Central Coast. Its amenable lifestyle and proximity to Sydney has converted it from a holiday destination to a growth centre. Bill Diebert has practiced in Terrigal for over 25 years, but was forced to consider his options when his premises faced demolition. He was hesitant to move the practice away from the area; besides, he still enjoyed the surfing and beachside café lifestyle!

With the commercial property market in the area tightly held, Dr Diebert found space that was central, yet slightly removed from Terrigal's busy mainstream strip of shops and businesses. This suited

the practice, as it already benefited from a strong and loyal patient base and didn't rely on passing trade. The only drawback of the space was the fact that it was smaller than he would have liked. A lack of space offers a major challenge for designers and often it is smaller practices that require the most thought and design flair to make the space work.

After purchasing the unit and a few attempts at arranging the space himself, Dr Diebert approached Levitch Design Associates to design the practice. He had a 40-year friendship with the design firm's directors and this friendship saw him admiring their integrity and artistic flair just as much as he admired their completed projects.

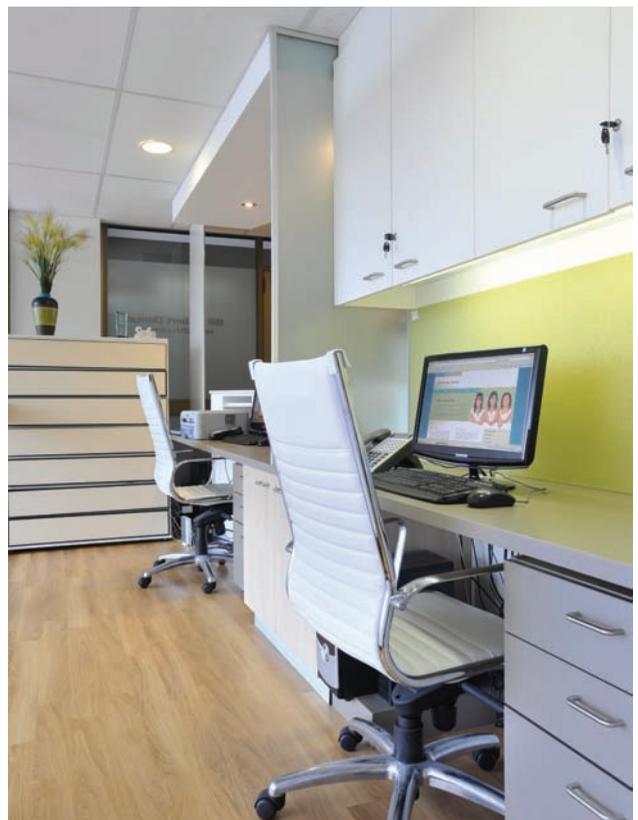
At the time, Dr Diebert was hoping to incorporate three operatories into the 84qm space. However, the team at Levitch Design Associates demonstrated this would be a tight fit and any design that attempted to incorporate three surgeries into the modest space available did not result in a highly functional practice, with good flow, as was desired by Dr Diebert. Concerns were also raised at this stage of any design that attempted to squeeze three surgeries into the space being non-compliant with disability codes. Instead, alternate designs were created that incorporated two surgeries, which resulted in the best use of the space.

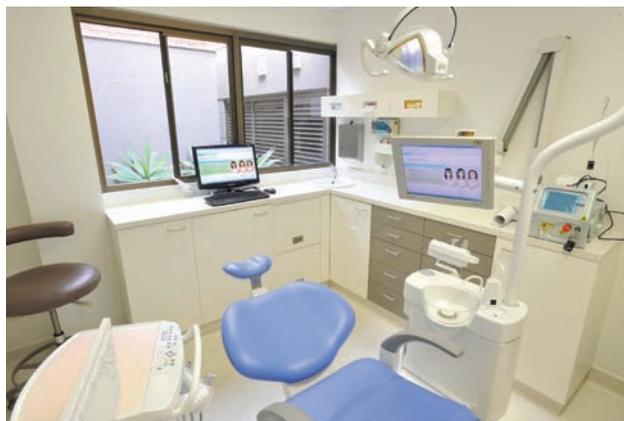


The finishes within the practice were chosen based on the practitioner's personal preferences. "I specifically wanted a nice and clean finish, but wanted to avoid the typical surgery look of marble, brass and glass," Dr Diebert explained. The result is a spacious, clean and well-lit practice, where each surgery benefits from plentiful natural light via windows and glass doors that open onto a small courtyard. It was also part of the brief that the design of the new practice embody the heart of two of Dr Diebert's favourite quotes, which he feels relay the philosophical essence of his practice:

1. "We must strive to retain what is, rather than to reconstruct what was"; and
2. "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease. WHO 1948".

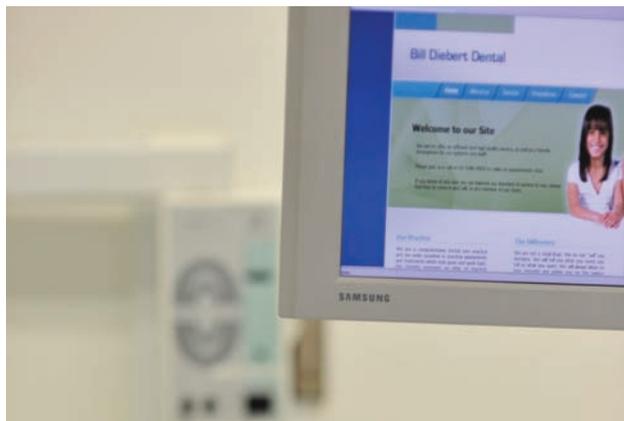
Dr Diebert worked closely with Antony Poate, Head of Interiors at Levitch Design Associates and after working their way through several layouts, they came to the final floor plan that reflects the layout of the practice as it is today. "We had to meld my 35 years of practical experience with the designers creative eye," explained Dr Diebert. "I had an idea of a layout I felt would function well and facilitate good traffic flow and LDA found a way to modernise and enhance this layout".





The design incorporates a sterilisation area, two surgeries, a practitioners' office, staff kitchen and an administration area adjacent to, but separate from, the reception desk. "I particularly like the convenient sense of flow between the areas of the practice. I like the wheelchair-friendly and less-abled access facilities. The 1200mm corridors are spacious for able-bodied clients and functional for wheelchairs and walking frames. The admin area functions well - there is both excellent flow and specific delineation; my office is central and yet private," Dr Diebert said.

With the design of the practice agreed, Dr Diebert's focus then turned to construction of the fit-out. It's not uncommon for there to be unforeseen issues that arise during the construction stage of a project, however in the case of Dr Bill Diebert's surgery, this phase was a breeze. The fit-out ran smoothly and was completed





## Summary

### The Practice

Principal	Dr Bill Diebert
Type of Practice	General
Location	Terrigal, New South Wales
Size	84 square metres
No of chairs	2

### The Team

Design	Levitch Design Associates
Senior Designers	Antony Poate
Construction	Stevens Construction
Project Manager	Phillip Rouse

### Equipment

Dental Units	Belmont CP1
Sterilisation	Melag Vacuklav 31B+
X-Ray	Trophy CCX Digital with Digora Optime PSP scanner
Lasers:	Fidelis and Smartline
Compressor	Turbine Industries
Suction	Cattani C-1
Software	Smartsoft Front Desk

by Stevens Construction, Project Managed by Phillip Rouse. "I have no hesitation in recommending this company and Philip very highly," Dr Diebert said. "Philip had problems solved before they arose".

The surgery features Belmont equipment, a brand Dr Diebert has used before and remains very happy with. The equipment within the surgery is over 5 years old, yet patients constantly ask if new equipment has been installed, as it looks and functions as new. Dr Diebert also purchases as much equipment and disposables as possible through Independent Dental Supplies, stating, "they are a joy to deal with".

The practice uses Melag autoclaves, which Dr Diebert is very happy with, Trophy CCX Digital x-ray units and a Digora Optime digital PSP scanner, which he considers 'excellent', and a 12 gallon Turbine Industries Compressor that he has had for about 20 years and still functions beautifully.

The end result is a workplace Dr Diebert and his team enjoy coming to each day. Patients have also been impressed with the change with Dr Diebert explaining, "Patients love the result. I am constantly complimented on the décor. They miss the personal photos, but the lines of the new fit-out are too clean for me to want to clutter."

