Practical cabinetry

David Rhodes offers a tale of refurbishment, showing that it doesn’t need to be a stressful procedure

Finally decided the time had come for a much needed, no holds barred ‘makeover’ of my associate’s surgery, to bring its ergonomics and decor up to the standards of the rest of the practice.

I am not fond of exposed pipes and cables, and a priority for me was to combine a new layout with anti-county cabinetry placement to enable the maximum concealment of the utility delivery systems.

This was going to involve a complete refurbishment of his surgery, and would mean stripping the walls back to the brick, re-wiring, replumbing and then completely replastering the whole room.

David Rhodes BDS

About the author

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Domestic harmony

Having refurbished the waiting room, reception area, sterilisation rooms and consulting room over the previous 18 months, I was fortunate to have an existing relationship with an excellent builder; I am also lucky to be married to an interior designer, who had her own ideas about the desired outcome. Domestic harmony was assured, however, as it became clear that we held similar opinions on the project’s success.

A vital element was the choice of cabinetry. It was important to choose cabinets of imaginative design, but whose visual impact was in keeping with the overall colour scheme and design aesthetic of the rest of the practice. (We have bold reds and blacks backed by light ceramic tiles throughout all the treatment rooms.)

I was already familiar with the elegant Tavom cabinetry range, supplied in the North West by RPA Dental Equipment Ltd, and a recent visit to international dental implant facilities in Dubai, created for the MSc programme run by Stewart Harding and Warwick University, gave me the opportunity to inspect Tavom cabinetry at first hand.

Fine design

I was impressed not only with the design, with its emphasis on clean lines and modernity, but also the build quality. It was no surprise to discover that Tavom cabinetry is designed and built in Italy, the natural home of fine design. The huge range of cabinet options is mixed, matched and assembled in the UK at RPA’s Wigan showroom and design studio.

With almost limitless choices and bespoke colours, all with stunning eye appeal, the ideal solution is achievable for any surgery, RPA’s Ian Smith, with advice and using examples in the showroom, helped us to create exactly the ambience and aesthetics we were seeking. The whole process was enjoyable and straightforward.

The building team, lead by Simon Ferraris, hailed with an independent dental engineer and had only one working week to gut the surgery, dry line it, complete the re-wiring, lay the ceramic floor and prepare the plumbing before the cabinets were delivered prior to redecoration.

Simon met his deadlines and the Tavom cabinets and black glass worktops were fitted within a day. Only after fitting, to ensure absolute accuracy, were the measurements taken for a Corian worktop. One week later the Corian top was fitted and the dental equipment reinstalled. After only two weeks, our new surgery was complete, looked fabulous and was ready for action.

Ian’s attention to detail and pre-installation planning, complementing the excellent and efficient work of Simon and his team, had made the entire operation very much less stressful than it might have been. I have no hesitation in recommending RPA and Tavom, who were a pleasure to work with and whose quality of service and superior products made a huge contribution to the project’s success.