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

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

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

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 appearance of the end product.

As soon as we held the keys to the surgery, dry line it, complete refurbishment and was ready for action. The building team, lead by Simon Ferrario, liaised with an independent dentist and had only one working week to gut and rebuild the surgery, dry line it, complete the rewiring, lay the ceramic floor and prepare the plumbing before the cabinets were delivered prior to redecoration.

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 black 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.

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About the author
David Rhodes BDS
For more information on Tavom, call Tavom UK on 0870 752 1421.