

BROOKS DENTAL STUDIO

Tacoma, Washington



SITE

At roughly 24' wide x 116' deep x 14' high this ground-floor space in a former downtown garage featured a heavy timber ceiling, and a rustic concrete party-wall that had been plastered over. Natural light was available only from the narrow street frontage. The streetfront window location was desirable in attracting and welcoming patients to the newly established practice.

PROGRAM

Because this new dental practice is located in a growing, artistic, and urban setting, the client wanted to create a relaxed atmosphere unlike a traditional dental office. The plan had to accommodate two operatories in the first phase, with up to five as the practice grows. In the interim, the additional space are to be used as art exhibition lounges. As part of the marketing strategy, the office design was to offer an aesthetic first impression to pedestrians, with gallery spaces to engage the community.

SOLUTION

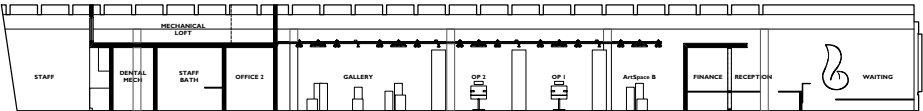
The plan is arranged in three zones: public waiting and reception in front, treatment in the middle, and staff and utilities in the back. The use of partial height walls and translucent panels and door between the front and back office enhances the patient perception of a single cohesive space and allows some daylight to penetrate into the treatment space. Dropped ceilings were placed above the service zones, with a storage and mechanical loft above, increasing the effective square footage.

The existing ceiling height seemed too high for patients' psychological comfort when reclined for treatment, and it did not allow for the required lighting, acoustical, mechanical, and treatment systems. A steel frame was installed above the operatories, reducing the apparent ceiling height and providing support for the required systems, as well as a TV for patient entertainment. Each operatory also includes a fresh flower placed in a custom wall-mounted bud vase.

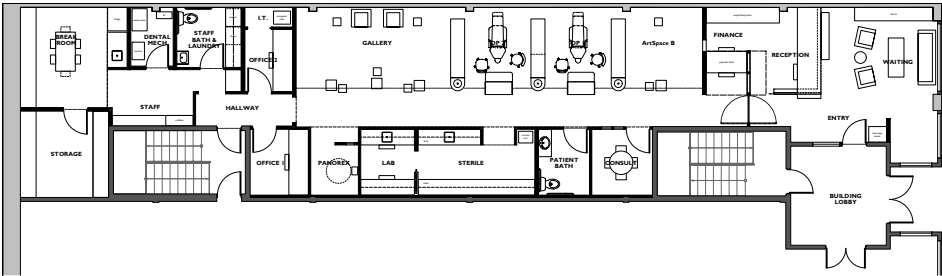
A limited palette of natural and elemental materials reduces visual clutter and contributes to a "spa" aesthetic. A repeated use of the studio's logo as a design motif (on windows, reception artwork, sliding panel pull) visually reinforces the studio's "brand".



LONGITUDINAL SECTION – PHASE I



FLOOR PLAN – PHASE I



FLOOR PLAN – PHASE II

