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Green Dentist Gives the Bay Area Something to Smile About
San Francisco's first sustainable dental practice moves to Union Square

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Green dentistry pioneer, Dr. Namrata Patel is the first dentist to make a serious commitment to green sustainable business practices in San Francisco. At her new LEED certified office in downtown San Francisco's Union Square at 360 Post Street, Dr. Patel takes a unique approach to combine dentistry and conserve the environment, using non toxic products, reducing waste and being minimally invasive.

"Dr. Patel is equally concerned about protecting our collective home - the planet," said Tom Rosenberg. "She does everything she can to reduce the ecological footprint of her practice."

That means in addition to efforts towards a paperless office, eliminating the use of plastic bottles and cans, and printing business cards and pamphlets with vegetable-based ink -- Dr. Patel's new office features sustainable architectural panels made from reclaimed vinyl and eco- resins, with organic acoustic insulation constructed from recycled denim jeans. Every surface from the floors to the cabinetry was thoughtfully procured for zero PVC and formaldehyde content, as well as being chlorine-free.

When clients enter the office, they are treated to herbal shoulder wraps, warm cloth face towels, and later provided with iPods with noise cancellation headphones to help them relax during procedures.

A special water filtration system was installed in the office that allows for the environmentally sound disposal of old mercury fillings. The use of digital tooth imaging technology means that clients are exposed to 90 percent less radiation than with traditional x-rays. It also eliminates the need for toxic x-ray development chemicals and film.

To Dr. Patel, the concept of green dentistry seeks to go beyond the environmental mantra of reduce, reuse and recycle, and to create a more complete connection between human health and the health of the ecosystem.

"My commitment to sustainability means finding a more organic way of doing dentistry," said Dr. Patel. "It's about reducing the ecological footprint my practice. But it's also about building lifelong relationships, educating people about proper care, and creating a genuine space for my clients."



FACT SHEET

GREEN OFFICE INITIATIVES:

- ❖ Diversion of 88% of all waste produced in construction.
- ❖ Office made from recycled contents, using recycled sheetrock, denim for acoustical insulation, panels made from recycled plastic. Furniture from with eco-resins, bamboo.
- ❖ Office panels made with reclaimed vinyl, eco-resins, bamboo, and organic acoustic insulation constructed from recycled denim jeans.
- ❖ Forest Stewardship Council certified wood used for cabinet laminates have no PVC or formaldehyde content and are chlorine-free.
- ❖ Resilient PVC- and chlorine-free flooring.
- ❖ Natural cooling HVAC system with zone controls provides independent temperature zones to maximize comfort and energy efficiency.
- ❖ Fully equipped with energy conserving appliances and utilizing the most energy efficient commercial T8 and MR16 lighting systems on the market today.
- ❖ Office furnished with recycled materials and organic bamboo and cotton coverings. Front desk constructed from a salvaged wood door.
- ❖ Chair coverings and barriers made of organic bamboo and organic cotton.

DENTAL TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES:

- ❖ Our patients are exposed to 90 percent less radiation with the use of digital imaging technology instead of x-rays for tooth imaging. This also eliminates the need for toxic x-ray development chemicals.
- ❖ Digital patient charting, in addition to being paper-free, creates an interactive environment that provides client education through in-mouth video and photos.
- ❖ Use of steam-based, surgical-grade instrument sterilization, contains no harmful chemicals and reduces water use.

- ❖ Installation of a special water filtration system allows for the environmentally sound disposal of old mercury fillings, to prevent pollution of our local water ways.
- ❖ Adherence to removal protocols based on recommendations of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT) and other prominent biological and holistic dental organizations.
- ❖ Biodegradable sterilization solutions are used to clean examination areas.

CLIENT CARE INITIATIVES:

- ❖ Clients are treated to herbal shoulder wraps, warm cloth face towels, and iPods with noise cancellation headphones to relax during procedures.
- ❖ Non-petroleum based lip balm and toothbrushes made from recycled yogurt cups provided.
- ❖ Allergen-free, non-latex gloves used to maximize health safety.

WHAT IS GREEN DENTISTRY?

Green dentistry is a whole-earth approach to tooth care that reduces the environmental impact of dentistry and creates a caring environment for clients.

- ❖ Our office has been designed to maximize energy efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint.
- ❖ We use state-of-the-art dental technology to minimize toxic pollution and water waste.
- ❖ Oral health care experience that provides for the well-being of each client.

SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS:

- ❖ Engages Dharma Merchant Services to process non-cash payments, which donates 10 percent of its gross profits to charitable organizations and is affiliated with the recently chartered green New Resources Bank.

[For further information about eco-design products:](#)

Panel Construction: 3form *ecoresin*[™]: www.3-form.com/materials-ecoresin-faq.php
Lumicor® recycled resin products: www.lumicor.com

Flooring: Toli International: www.toli.com

Wood laminates: Forest Stewardship Council: www.fscus.org

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