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july | 2007

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DESIGNER SMILES

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? A Father/Daughter Team for Your Most Precious Commodity: 'Your Smile'

by mimi knight

Most of us, given our druthers, would change a thing or two about our appearance—a little off here, a little more there, tighter, firmer, higher, younger-looking. Luckily for us, we live in a time where there are a number of options for improving what nature dealt us. Don't like your mousey brown eyes? Get colored contacts. Not happy watching your body slide slowly southward? Reverse gravity. Highlight, straighten, nip, tuck, bronze or lighten.

How about your smile? After all, what's the benefit of having the rest of you look spectacular when you open your mouth and break the spell? Cosmetic dentistry offers an assortment of options for taking a so-so smile and converting it to cover-of-Glamour-Magazine fabulous.

Drs. Ann Fishel and Marcus Haggard of Designer Smiles, Clear Lake, offer a delightful variety of options for rescuing your smile whether you need a slight enhancement to cover up a few flaws or a complete makeover. Advances in cosmetic dentistry make it possible to create the ideal smile quickly, painlessly and for much less than you probably think.

For instance, let's look at gingival tissue re-contouring. By using a state-of-the-art, FDA-approved CO2 laser, they can take a "gummy" or uneven smile





cavities, will never need root canals and are actually stronger than natural teeth. Patients complain that dentures weaken the strength of their bite and ability to chew. Dental implants stabilize and secure the denture, therefore minimizing this problem.”

Drs. Fishel and Haggard perform a full array of general dentistry procedures. The practice offers basic care, such as dental cleanings, digital radiography, pit and fissure sealants and tooth-colored restorations, as well as a wide range of cosmetic procedures, including complete smile makeovers. “A smile should be both functional and an esthetically pleasing,” Dr. Fishel said. “We’re not satisfied fixing a problem if the solution is unsightly. We like our patients to have both—a smile that works well and looks great.”

The Designer Smile practice is unique because it is a father/daughter team. You see, Dr. Haggard is Dr. Fishel’s father. “I grew up in my dad’s practice. My mother, Rosanne, was his hygienist, so I was there all the time,” Dr. Fishel said. “They didn’t pressure me to go into the family practice. In fact, when I was doing my internship, I intentionally worked in other specialties and with other

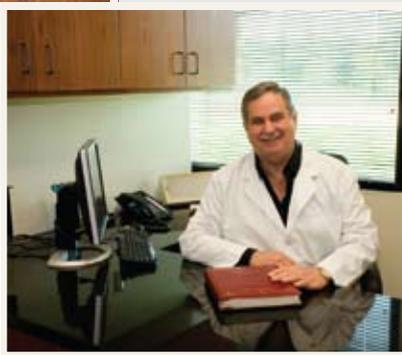
and create the ideal smile. “Because we use the CO2 laser, we’re able to do the procedure with only local anesthesia,” Dr. Fishel said. “After the procedure, the patient is able to resume normal activity.”

Another popular option is porcelain veneers. “Veneers are thin shells of porcelain or composite material fitted to your teeth which change the color, shape and length or cover-up flaws and inconsistencies,” Dr. Fishel explains. “Think of it as a manicure for your teeth. The best part is that very little of your natural tooth structure is removed.”

For patients desiring teeth whitening, the Designer Smiles team offers both in-house and take-home whitening. For those wishing to straighten crooked, crowded or mal-aligned teeth, they offer Invisalign® as an alternative to braces. Unlike traditional wire braces, these clear plastic tooth aligners can’t be seen and are removed for brushing and flossing. The trays can also be removed if there is a professional or social occasion when you’d rather not wear them.

The placement and restoration of dental implants is the highest level of dental technology utilized by Drs. Haggard and Fishel. This cutting-edge technology replaces lost or missing teeth and root structures, giving patients the look, feel and strength of their natural teeth. “Implants are the wave of the future,” Dr. Haggard explains. “Instead of bridges, dentures or partials, the free-standing implant functions much like the natural tooth.”

“One problem with bridge work is that the teeth cannot function independently. If there is decay on any part of the structure, the stability of the bridge is severely compromised. Dental implants cannot develop



doctors.”

“Dad and I complement each other well professionally,” she said. Dad has 39 years of clinical experience, and I have an insatiable curiosity about the latest medical and dental technology. We consistently practice with a team-approach philosophy, working cooperatively on many procedures. Nothing could replace being able to work alongside my father.”

It’s never too late to have the smile you want. After all, our teeth are an integral part of our life. They allow us to chew our food, help us speak and support our facial structures. But a dynamic smile can do more than that. The dazzling smile created by the professionals at Designer Smiles will allow you to broadcast warmth and confidence to the world and feel great about yourself too.

Give Drs. Haggard and Fishel a call today at 281-338-9032 or visit them on the Web at www.designerforsmiles.com.

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Monday through Thurs. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. · Fridays by appointment only