

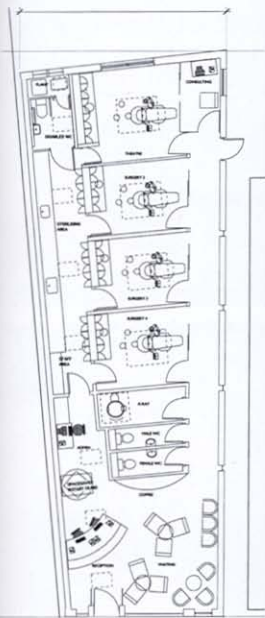
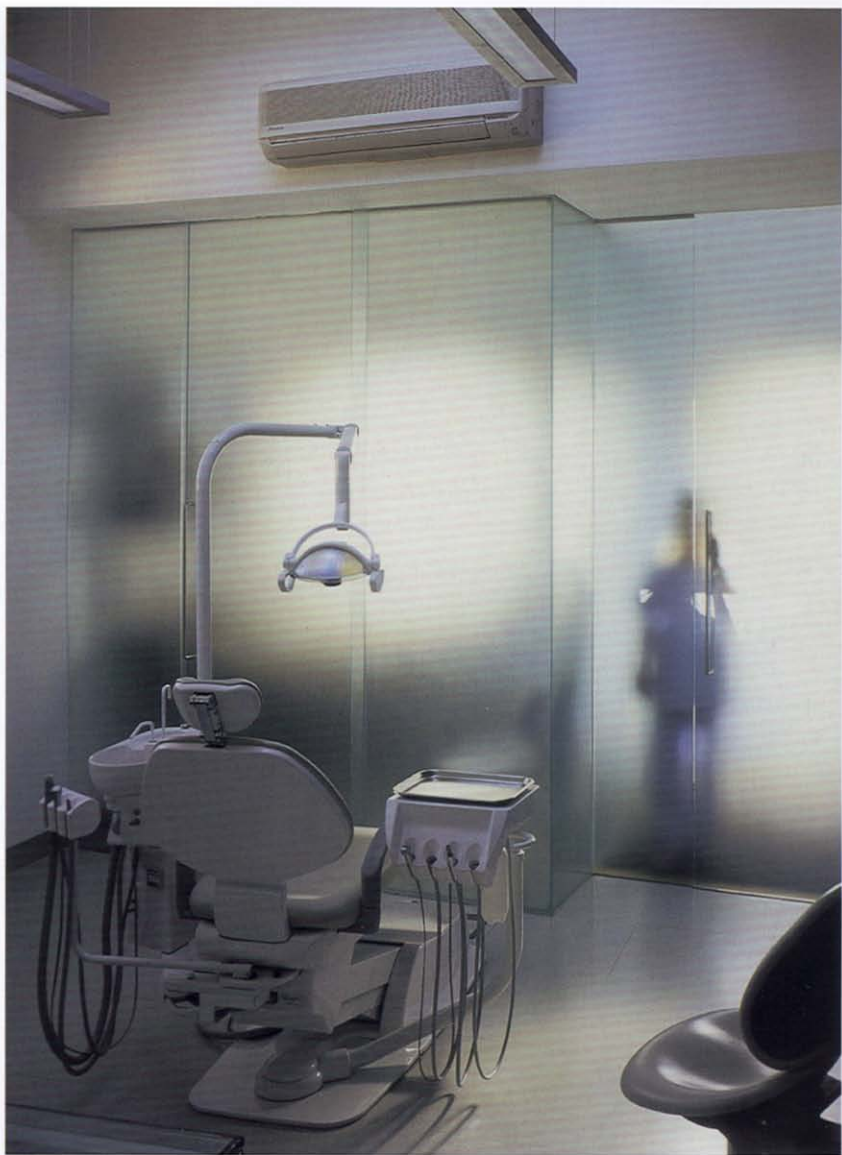
# ADVANCE DENTAL CLINIC .CHELMSFORD .RICHARD MITZMAN ARCHITECTS

This is a real surprise: the ingenious insertion into an impossibly constrained site in an undistinguished suburb of Chelmsford of a skilfully designed dental surgery that is a pleasure to visit. The planners insisted on a pitched roof and the use of brick; the architect has subtly subverted their intention by giving them a monopitch roof and crisp brickwork with which even the Dutch would be pleased.

The plan is simple and logical and the design detail is precise and thoughtful. The layout is intrinsically ergonomically efficient and provides for the highest standards of cross-infection control, with patient circulation separated from that of staff by the surgeries. A storage wall that can be accessed from both sides houses all services, including waste bins, instruments and materials – an idea borrowed from American dental-surgery design but extremely rare in the UK. This separation of front-of-house and backstage activities helps to calm patients, as well improving hygiene standards. Lying in a dentist's chair looking at the blue sky and clouds through a carefully placed rooflight must soothe even the most frazzled nerves. It is an immensely restful and cheering interior achieved by an understanding of the basis of architectural light and form.

None of this is quite so surprising when one learns that the architect trained and practised for fourteen years as a dentist. This surely unique combination of skills and experience has produced a building that is completely in tune with the needs of its users. One waiting patient commented to the judges, 'I don't mind coming to the dentist these days'. High praise indeed. And it is working in economic terms, too, with more than 500 new patients taken on in the first year.

**CLIENT** DR ANDREW MOORE  
**STRUCTURAL ENGINEER** DAVID BERLE  
**SERVICES ENGINEER** MAIN GROUP SERVICES  
**QS** HAMPTON  
**CONTRACTOR** ZENON KACZMARCZYK BUILDING SERVICES  
**CONTRACT VALUE** £320,000  
**COMPLETION DATE** MAY 2003  
**GROSS INTERNAL AREA** 142 SQUARE METRES  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** NICHOLAS KANE



GROUND-FLOOR PLAN

